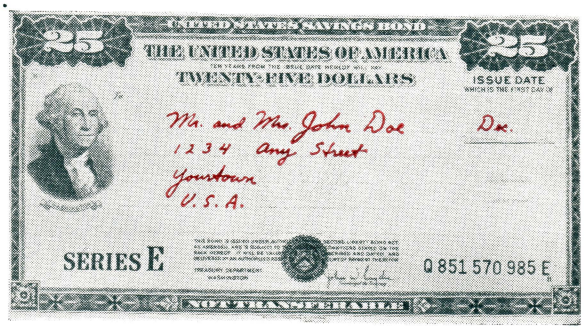
consumer reports

COFFEE MAKERS • FACE POWDER • SOCKS • TOYS • RECORDS • ELECTRIC SHAVERS
DISHWASHERS • PHOTO GIFTS • STAINLESS STEEL FLATWARE • ELECTRIC DRILLS

1952 CHRISTMAS
BUYING ISSUE



new model rated best buy for Christmas

It sometimes happens, in the field of consumer testing, that a product rated as a Best Buy last year turns out to be less good this year. This is a great disappointment to CU's editors. But it's always pleasant to report when last year's Best Buy turns out this year to be a better buy than ever—and this is precisely the situation with the new Series E, U. S. Savings Bond. CU is therefore pleased to present the following rating:

CHRISTMAS GIFTS

Best Buy

■ ■ **U.S. SAVINGS BOND, Series E** (United States Treasury Department, Washington, D. C.). $18.75 to $7500 (list). Value after nine years and eight months, $25 to $10,000. Guaranteed by U.S. Government. The following new features, which improve the quality of an already superior product, have been added since CU's last report: Interest rate when held to maturity has been increased to 3% instead of 2.9%, as formerly; bonds need not be redeemed on maturity, but may be held for an additional ten years at a steady 3%.

the december issue

of CONSUMER REPORTS will be the annual Buying Guide Issue. No regular issue of the REPORTS appears next month. All subscribers get the Buying Guide Issue. All Christmas gift subscriptions start with it. To enter gift subscriptions, use the Order Form on page 546.

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PRODUCT TESTS: Samples of products tested are bought on the open market by CU's shoppers. So long as quality varies within brands and products change behind their names, no test results can be infallible. What CU's ratings offer is comparative buying information the use of which, CU believes, will enormously increase the consumer's chances of getting his money's worth. Ratings are based on laboratory tests, controlled use tests, expert opinion or experience, or a combination of these factors. It is CU's pledge that any opinions entering into its ratings shall be as free from bias as it is possible to make them.

consumer reports

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november 1952 volume 17 number 11

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RATING SYMBOLS: A single block ■ identifies an Acceptable product; two blocks ■■ a Best Buy; a circle **O** a Not Acceptable product.

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reports on products

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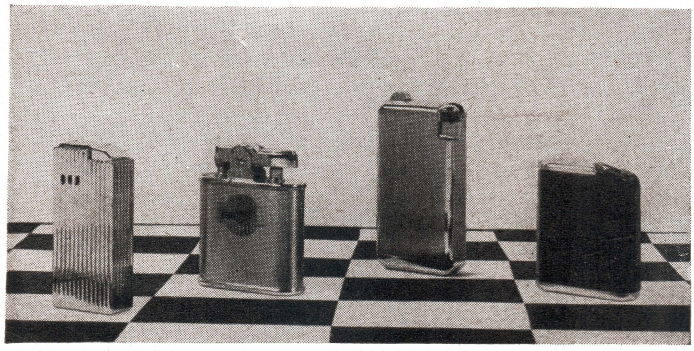
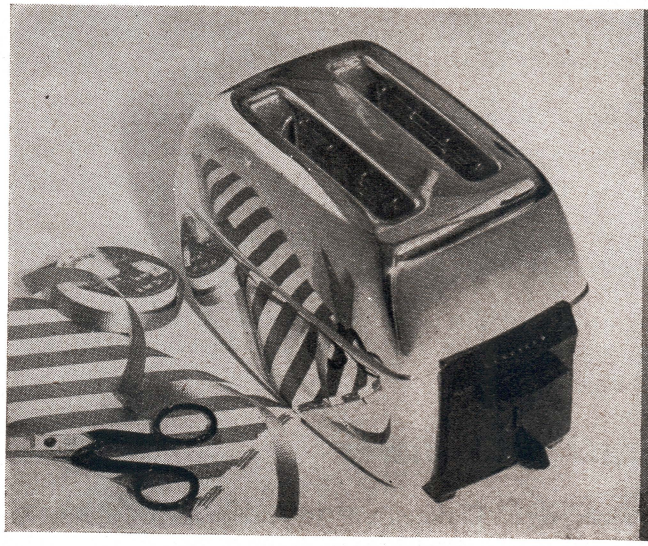
cu's 1952 Christmas gift suggestions

On these pages CU presents a variety of products which might make good Christmas gifts. The range of items in the list is broad: from a 29¢ comb to a $3400 automobile; from a cigarette lighter to a gas range; from a tire gauge to a nylon slip. Their common denominator is in their having been selected by CU from items rated high in tests or recommended by CU's consultants. The items on page 505 were selected from the Museum of Modern Art's "Good Design" exhibit. The prices given were those current when this issue went to press. More items suitable for gifts appear in the articles which follow.

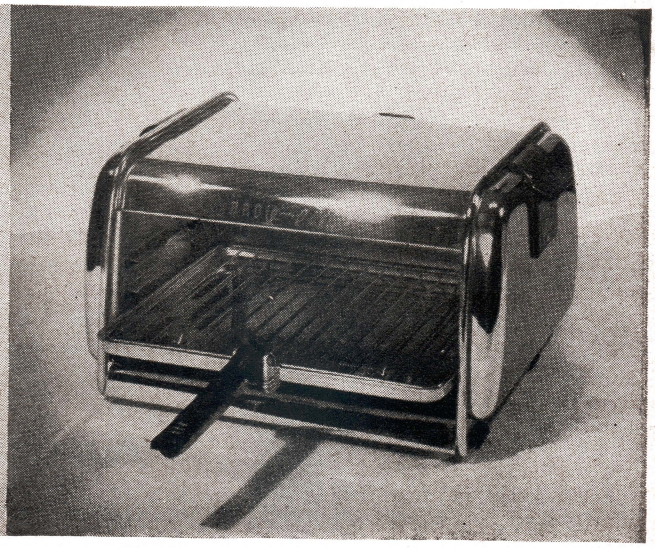


Top-rated lighters, left to right: the semi-automatic A-S-R Ascot 501 ($9.95), the automatic Ronson Whirlwind ($8.95), the butane-Flaminaire ($14.50), and the flameless Lektrolite Black Gem ($5)

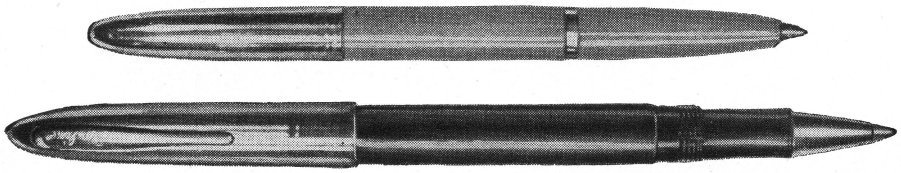
Dormeyer EA-6500, Proctor Custom 1483, Universal EA-2825, Camfield C-3, Wards 86C2292L were good toasters



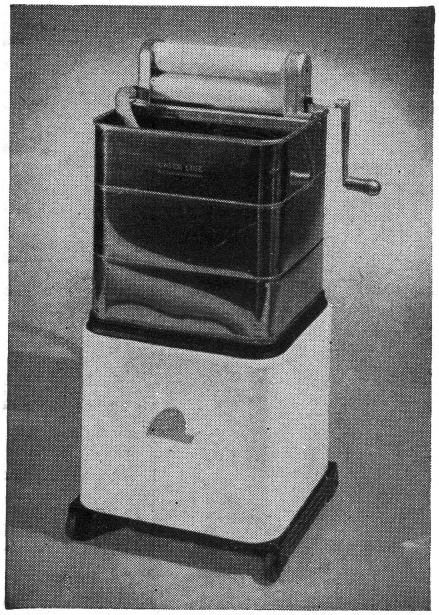
The Broil-Quik Model B electric broiler ($35.95) had the highest performance rating in CU's tests of 19 broilers



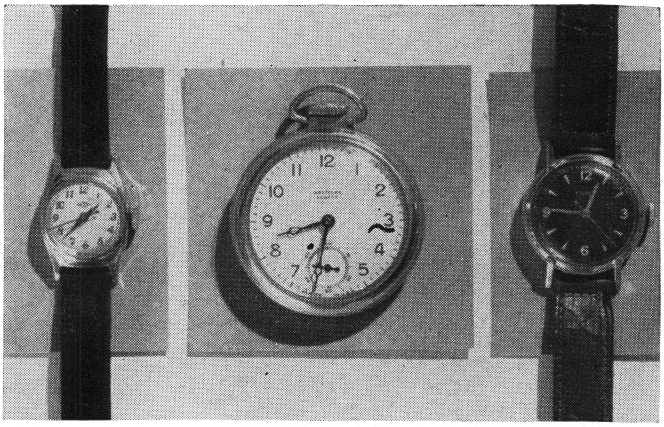
The Sheaffer Fineline and the smaller Fineline Smoothie without clip, above it, (each $1.65) were best in CU's ball-point pen ratings

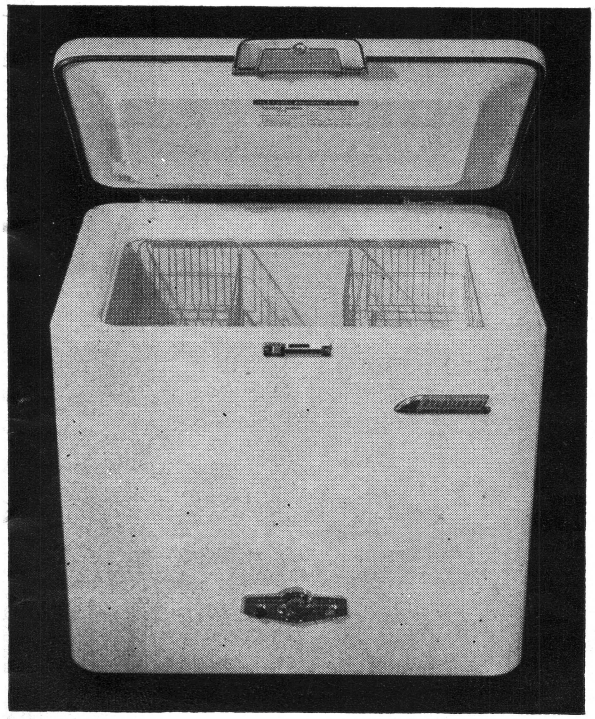


The four Monitor washers ($49.95 to $79.95 but basically alike in performance) were the only small washers which CU rated Good (but see ratings in July 1952 REPORTS before buying one)



Top-rated non-jeweled watches were made by The U. S. Time Corp. (Timex, Ingersoll, and some mail-order brands) and General Time Corp. (Westclox)



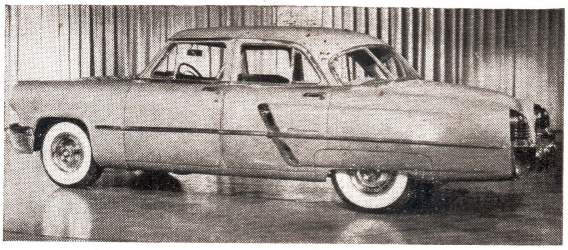


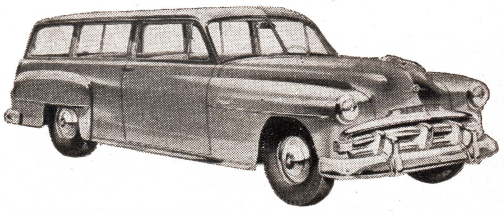
The Deepfreeze C-72 (7.2 cu. ft., $299.95) was the best small freezer. A good upright model was the Amana 12A2 (12 cu. ft., $549)

For practicality and looks: easy-to-clean plastic place mats, tough Boonton plastic dishes (16 for $13.95 in the East, $14.95 in the West), and soft unwoven-cloth napkins

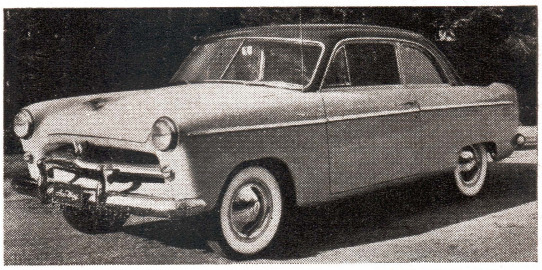
Christmas gifts

LINCOLN

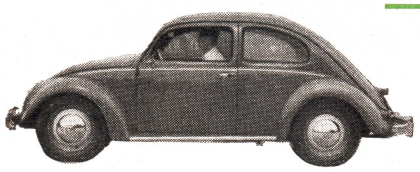




PLYMOUTH SUBURBAN



WILLYS AERO



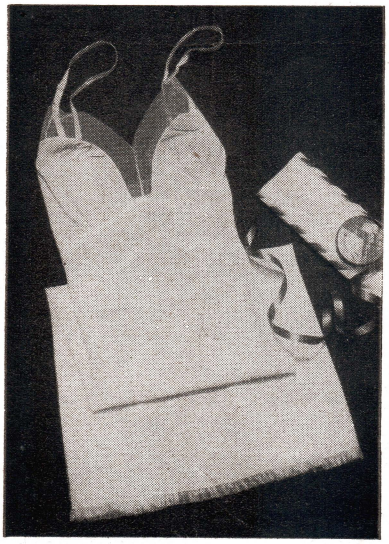
VOLKSWAGEN

From the year's cars: The easy handling combination load-carrier and over-the-road car—the Plymouth Suburban ($2165); the compact, maneuverable Willys Aero ($1989); the high-quality Lincoln Cosmopolitan ($3489); and the neat, tough little German-made Volkswagen ($1595)

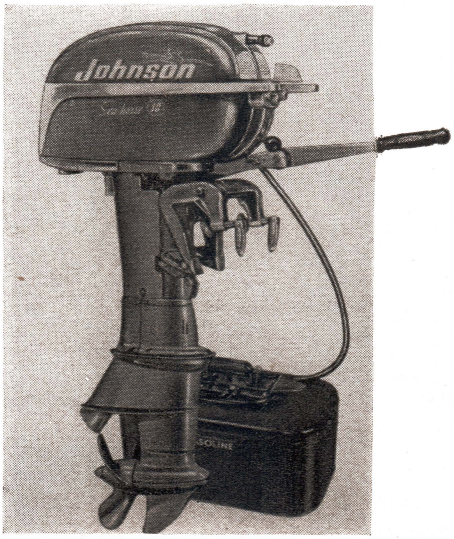
Among heating pads, the three-heat Westinghouse WP-501 ($8.95) was one of the best tested by CU

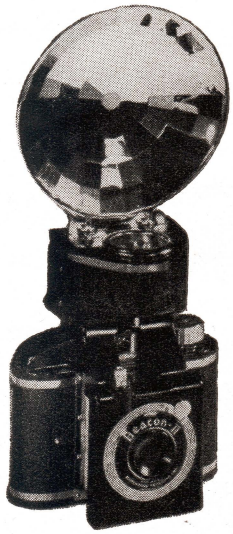
A gift of nylon stockings is an old Christmas standby; Holeproof 15 denier 60 gauge ($1.75) rated high

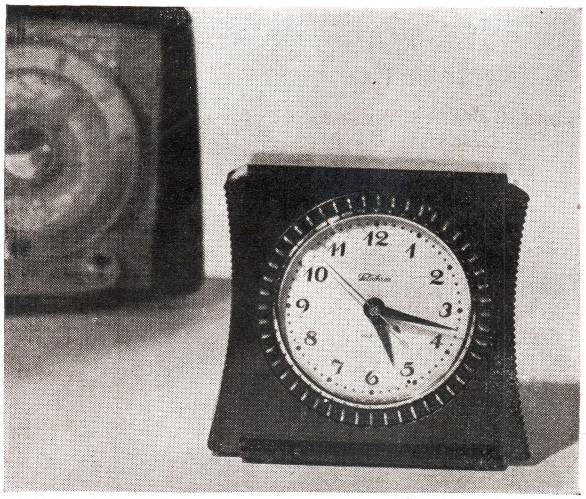
Nylon is a good fabric for slips and a nylon crepe rated high in CU's tests was Rhythm style 720 ($5.95)



For the boatman: the 10-hp. Johnson Sea Horse ($299.95) proved to be an outstanding outboard motor

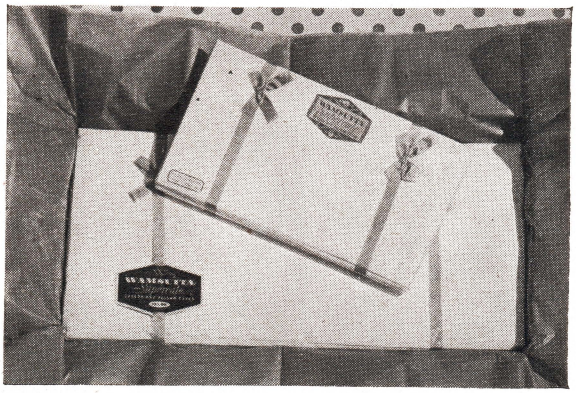


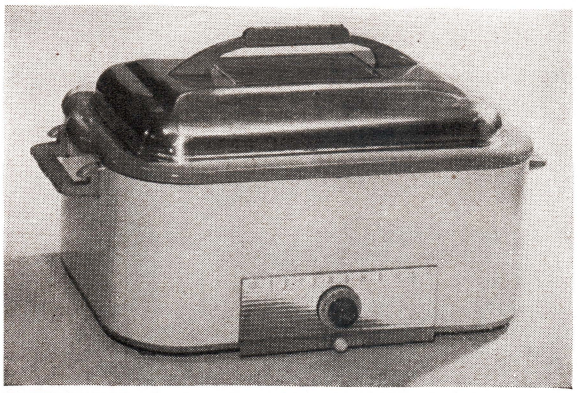




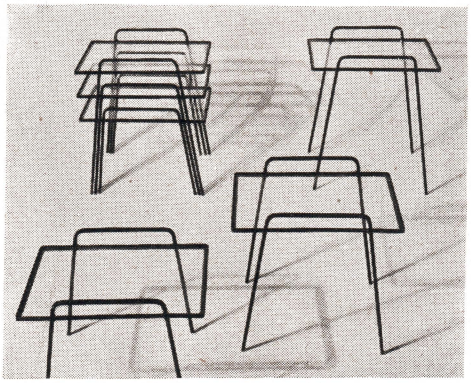
The Telechron Selector ($21 including tax) will turn appliances on and off at pre-selected times

High-rated percale bed linen: Wamsutta Supercale (sheets, about $7.35; pillow cases, about $1.60)



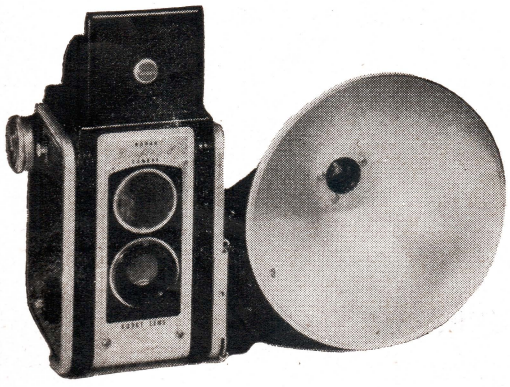


The Westinghouse RO-91 electric roaster ($42.95) was the best in overall quality in CU's survey



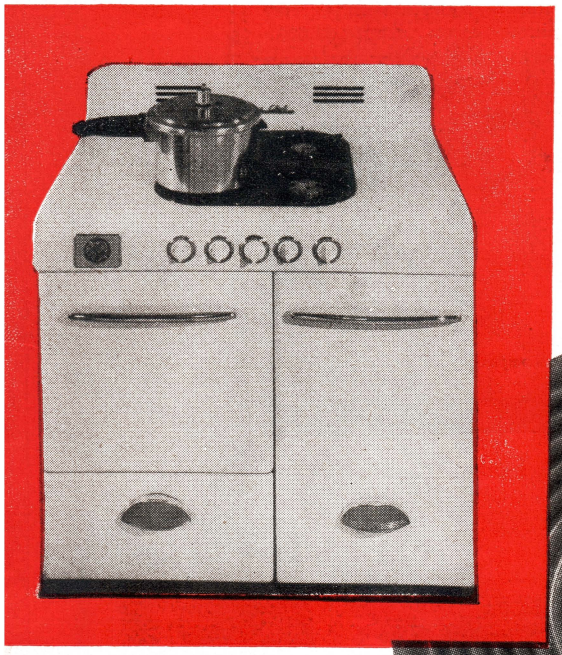
Glass-topped wrought-iron tables ($16 for three, Rena Rosenthal, Inc., 71 East 57th St., NYC)

Two inexpensive cameras which CU rated Excellent: Beacon II ($9.95, flash unit $4.95), left, and Kodak Duaflex II ($14.50, flash unit $3)



The aluminum-jacketed Thermos Model 2484 with four plastic cups ($3.75) was the best quart vacuum bottle tested by CU

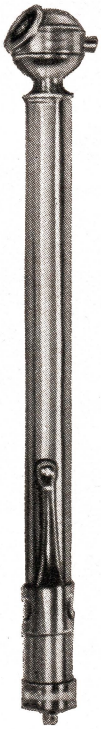
Christmas gifts



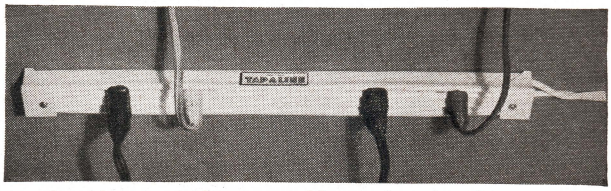
On the high-ranking standard model Magic Chef 14 gas range ($155.95) rests the Ekco Ekconomic 5-quart model 6075 ($14.95) pressure cooker which rated high in tests

For suburban or country dwellers, a labor-saving power mower: the Very Good Toro 21-in. Sportlawn ($139.95)

Transparent plastic garden hose (left) is both very light and very tough

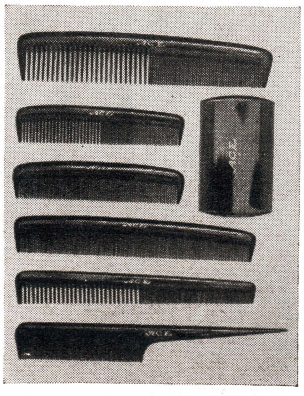


A Best Buy for the man who wants to keep a close check on inflation: the Supreme Model 55 tire gauge (list price, $1.39)

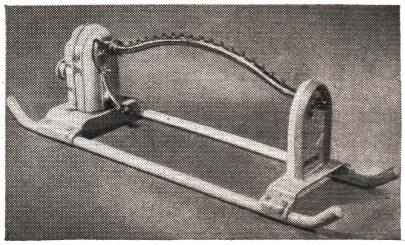


A gadget to end some problems of outlet shortage: Tap-A-Line ($2). Plug it in and plug appliances into it

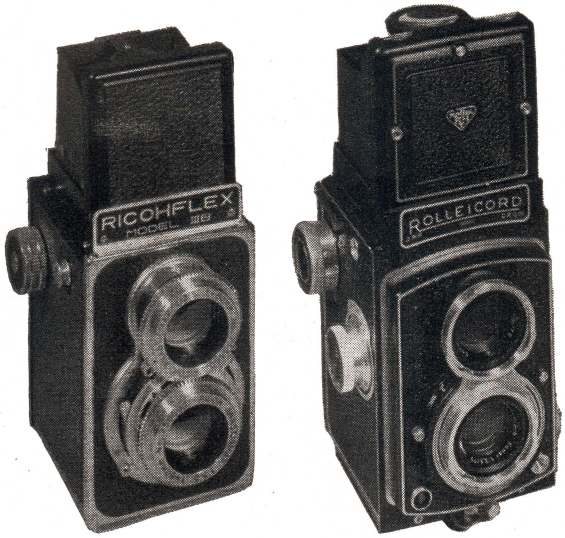
For the serious gardener, a very good wheel hoe: the Geyer Garden Master Cultivator ($7.60)



Combs make good stocking presents. In CU's tests several Ace combs (29¢ and up) rated high

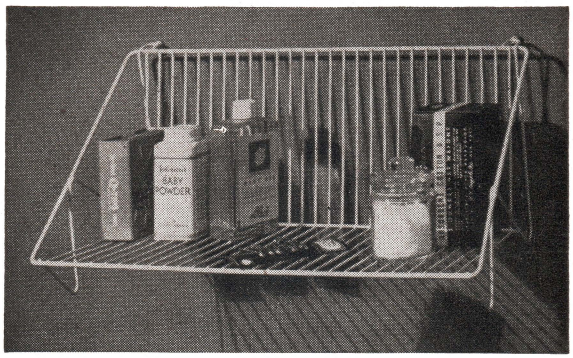


The Avon Oscillating Sprinkler ($14.95) was a good rectangular-coverage sprinkler



Two Best Buy twin-lens reflex cameras: the relatively low-priced Japanese-made Ricohflex IIIB ($50.45, with Eveready case) and the more expensive German-made Rolleicord III (about $140, including case, depending on the choice of lens)

Each year the Museum of Modern Art, New York, selects home furnishings representing "the best new design." From the 1952 collection, CU chose these useful objects. The manufacturer or distributor is given for each one, so that would-be buyers who don't find them in the stores they visit can write for the names and addresses of outlets in their vicinity.



Plastic-coated shelves to hang up or stand on a flat surface. $3.95 for the 17½-inch size; Seabon, 132 East 58 St., NYC

Metal table lamp in white and black baked-on enamel. $22.50; Middletown Mfg. Co., Middletown, N. Y.

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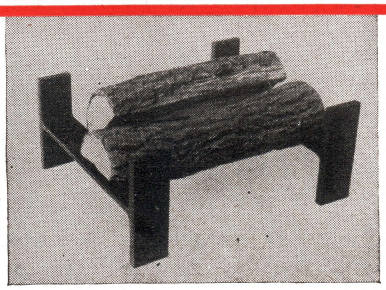

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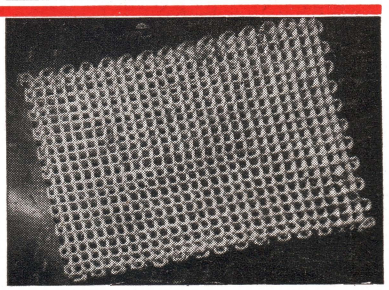

4

1 Ovenproof glass teapot with insert for tea leaves; one quart capacity. $6; Fraser's, Berkeley 4, Cal.

2 Flair glasses of clear crystal in various sizes. $1.20 for a set of eight; Libbey Glass Co., Toledo

3 Black wrought-iron firedogs of simple I-beam design. $10; Richards Morgenthau Co., 212 Fifth Ave., New York City

4 A new pattern for a door mat in natural color hemp, 18x24 in. $5.95; Jack Moss, 130 S. Robertson Blvd., Los Angeles

ELECTRIC DISHWASHERS

They can lighten the job but they can't take all the work out of washing dishes. Of eight brands tested two were rated Excellent and one Not Acceptable

According to one manufacturer of electric home dishwashers, the average American housewife, perhaps assisted part of the time by her husband, spends one and a half hours out of every 24 doing dishes. No mechanical dishwasher yet marketed can eliminate this daily chore entirely. Whether a good machine will save enough dishwashing time and work to make it worth $200 to $400 or more (roughly the present price range) depends on individual circumstances.

For CU's survey of mechanical dishwashers, eleven models representing eight leading brands were bought and given laboratory and controlled use tests. The results of CU's investigations showed that:

1. The best electric home dishwashers wash most dishes clean enough to please even a very fastidious housewife. But not all dishwashers do a generally satisfactory job.

2. No dishwasher takes all the work out of dishwashing, but a good one saves most of the work of actual washing and drying, and keeps the user's hands out of hot, soapy water. To prepare dishes for the machine, food must first be scraped off just as it is for hand dishwashing. Certain dishes—those used for such sticky foods as eggs, and cooked cereal, for example—should be hand rinsed before they are loaded into the machine. All the machines CU tested both wash and rinse dishes; some dry them and others merely allow the hot water on the dishes to evaporate. No washer eliminates the need for hand washing of pots and pans or other dishes from which the soil must be scoured off.

3. The various models differ greatly in convenience. Some can hold more dishes than others. Some are easier to load than others. Some clean themselves out thoroughly whereas others require periodic and rather difficult cleansing. Some have controls which allow considerable flexibility in operation (so that, for example, you can add an extra rinsing if you wish, while others allow no flexibility in use.

4. If they are loaded into the machine properly, most dishes and glassware are less likely to be damaged by machine washing than by hand washing. Some decorations put over the glaze, however, may be damaged by the strongly alkaline detergents and the very hot water which is often used in the machines.

5. A dishwasher is not a quiet apparatus; it is, in fact, about as noisy as a washing machine. If, therefore, your living room is separated from the kitchen only by a counter, don't count on a quiet, undisturbed period of leisure while the machine does the dishes.

6. The selling price may be only part of the original cost of a dishwasher. So-called portable models (which are the same size as fixed-mounted models but are equipped with casters so that they can be moved around) may require no special installation work. Permanently fixed dishwashers, however, need plumbing and may need carpentry which may turn out to be expensive. Furthermore, the electricity the machine draws may overload your present kitchen circuit, and special wiring may be necessary. Installation costs may run to more than half of the purchase price in some cases.

7. It takes a good deal of practice before you learn the best way to load the machine so that it will take the maximum load while turning out really clean dishes. Many companies offer home demonstrations and home instructions to dishwasher buyers, either free or at nominal cost. It's a good idea to take advantage of such instruction; you'll learn much more with your own dishes and your own serving habits than any store demonstration can teach you.

How they work

Essentially the operation of all the dishwashers CU tested was the same. The dishes and glassware are arranged in wire baskets or trays inside the machine and the silverware is placed in a special holder provided for it. When the machine is turned on, hot water is driven at high speed against the utensils, and it splashes around inside the tank, hitting the pieces on all sides. Very strongly alkaline detergents such as *Electra-sol* and *Calgonite*—too strong for

use in hand dishwashing and so strong that they may damage paint and linoleum on which they are spilled—are used to help in removing the soil.

In some machines, the dishes are given a rinse in clear water before the washing cycle. Such machines have special containers to hold the detergent until the washing starts. After they have been washed, the dishes are rinsed with streams of clear water. Both wash and rinse water should be very hot. Manufacturers' recommendations differ, but 150° to 160° Fahrenheit is the usually recommended temperature (120° is about as hot as most people can stand for hand dishwashing). Those machines which dry the dishes best do so by blowing heated air over them after they have been rinsed.

None of the machines CU tested has any provision for outside venting, and all of them will increase the humidity in the kitchen when they are in use.

Type and installation

Many makes are available in a variety of models: as free-standing cabinet models; as under-counter models which have no finished tops, sides, or backs of their own but are designed to be set under kitchen counters; as combinations with sinks; and as caster-mounted "portables". The differences between different versions of the same make are generally confined to external aspects. CU bought and tested both the "portable" and a fixed-mounted *Sears*, and examination uncovered no important differences in dishwashing operation. Only front-opening machines come in under-counter models. The under-counter models are usually the cheapest in the line, with the combinations the most costly.

Both front-opening and top-opening models were tested. On the front-opening machines, the top can be used as a working space without its having to be cleared every time the dishes are washed. But front-opening dishwashers can be used only where there is sufficient floor space in front of the machine.

If you decide on a fixed-mounted model, you may be confronted with such installation problems as the need for special drains and for long hot-water lines. Furthermore, gravity-drain models may need a very low drain-pipe trap, which sometimes necessitates tearing up some of the floor; with pump-drained models a low drain-pipe trap is not usually necessary. On any permanently installed model not already equipped with a water valve, it's worth while to have one put in during installation. This will facilitate work on the machine in case of mechanical trouble. Similarly, a switch on the electric line is a wise precaution, and particularly so with a model like the *Apex* or the *Youngstown* which have continually operating thermostat-controlled water heaters.

CU's tests

Since the most important performance criterion of a dishwasher is how well it will wash dishes, CU's test machines were made to wash a great many of them during the tests. As a source of dirty dishes, CU had the use of the tableware removed from the tables of the cafeteria in a

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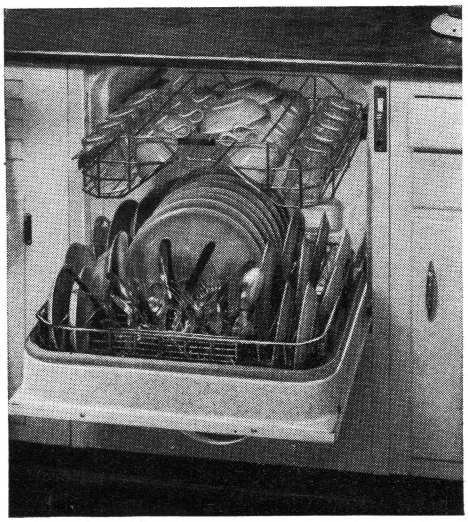


The high-rated Hotpoint—under-counter model

Cheapest model tested: Spiegel's version of the James

High-rated Kitchen Aid has handy independent racks

large university, and the services of several home economists in using the machines to wash them. With the practically endless supply of soiled dishes from the cafeteria, it was possible to test all of the machines with the same kinds of soiled dishes. The dishes were examined after washing not only for cleanliness but also for dryness; each machine was also graded for the capacity and the convenience of its racks, for the convenience and the flexibility of its controls, and for any hazards which it might embody. Except for the *Apex* and the *Youngstown*, in which the water temperatures were those delivered by their built-in water heaters (about 175° F.), the temperature of the wash water for the tests was set at 140°F. This is not so hot as some manufacturers suggest, but it is about as hot as is available in most households. Data from engineering tests made in CU's laboratory were used to estimate comparative operating costs. Finally, the eight machines rated Acceptable were run through more than 700 complete washing, rinsing, and drying cycles (the equivalent of about one year of twice-daily use) to see if any would break down. (None did; the two *Sears Kenmore* models required replacement of the lid gaskets, and these as well as the *James* and the *Apex* showed some rust or corrosion, but the operation of the machines was not impaired by it.)

Getting water that is hot enough is one of the problems of using a dishwasher. If the dishwasher has a pre-wash rinse cycle, this may use up the relatively cool water standing in the pipe, so that when the actual washing begins, the machine will be supplied with really hot water. If it has no pre-wash rinse (and many don't), it's best to have the machine installed in such a manner that the water standing in the pipe can be bled off into a sink before the machine is turned on. In general, the line from the hot water source to the dishwasher should be as short as possible. A good supply of hot water doesn't insure good dishwashing, however. Despite the fact that they have thermostatically controlled heaters to make and keep the water hot, the *Apex* and the *Youngstown* were the poorest of the dishwashers tested.

RATINGS OF ELECTRIC DISHWASHERS

Most manufacturers make several dishwashers with essentially the same mechanism; many but not all of these versions are listed, and each model CU tested is marked with an asterisk (*). Dimensions, in inches, are given in order of height, width, and depth (front to back). Dimensions in parentheses are for open machines. Power rating refers to the maximum current the machine draws in use; water consumption figures are given for a single full operating cycle. Unless otherwise noted, tubs are rectangular. Certain other characteristics are described only when they are either exceptionally good or exceptionally bad. Prices given are list prices as of September 1952. Capacity is given in terms of place settings; for discussion of usable capacity (see story).

ACCEPTABLE

Excellent

¶ *The Hotpoint and the Kitchen Aid dishwashers were judged to be about equal in overall quality.*

■ **HOTPOINT AUTOMATIC ELECTRIC DISHWASHER MC 14*** (Hotpoint, Inc., Chicago). $323.68. Under-counter model. Front opening. 34½x27x26 (41 open). 1250 watts. Requires 9½ gal. hot water. Dishwashing ability, best of any machine tested. Capacity, largest of any machine tested, about 8 place settings. Drying, best of any machine tested. Control knob is marked only for "on" and "off." Impeller protection, good. No latch on door, which is too easily opened. Cycle: pre-wash rinse, 2 washes, 2 rinses, drying; total, about 50 min. of which 20 are for washing and rinsing.

The following models are, according to the manufacturer, substantially the same as the MC-14, above, except as noted:

HOTPOINT AUTOMATIC ELECTRIC DISHWASHER MC 14 with MC 15 countertop. $350.33. 36x27x26 (41 open); height to top of splash back, 40 in.

HOTPOINT AUTOMATIC ELECTRIC SINK MC 16. $448.68. Combination dishwasher and sink. 36x48x26 (41 open); height to top of splash back, 42½ in.

HOTPOINT AUTOMATIC ELECTRIC SINK MCP16. $470.68. Combination dishwasher and sink. Dimensions same as for *MC 16*, above. This model pumps to drain.

■ **KITCHEN AID HOME DISHWASHER KD-10*** (Kitchen Aid Dishwasher Div., Hobart Mfg. Co., Troy, Ohio). $329.95. Under-counter model. Front opening. 34½x24x26½ (43 open). 1240 watts. Requires 7 gal. hot water. Dishwashing ability, excellent. Capacity, about 8 place settings. Overall convenience and racks, excellent. Control knob indicates position in cycle. It can be advanced to skip portions of the cycle or turned to repeat them. Latch and interlock system, good. Revolving arm bearing may need occasional greasing. Cycle: wash, 2 rinses, drying; total, about 35 min. of which 12 are for washing and rinsing.

The following models are, according to the manufacturer, substantially the same as the KD-10, above, except as noted:

KITCHEN AID HOME DISHWASHER KD-20*. $354.95. Cabinet model. 36x24x26½ (43 open); height to top of splash back, 40 in.

KITCHEN AID HOME DISHWASHER KD-30. $455. Combination dishwasher and sink. 36x48x26½ (43 open). Height to top of splash back, 40 in.

Good

■ **WESTINGHOUSE AUTOMATIC DISHWASHER DWA 13*** (Westinghouse Electric Corp., Mansfield, Ohio). $329.96. Under-counter model. Front opening. 34½x24x25½ (42½ open). 1200 watts. Requires 7 gal. hot water. Dishwashing ability, excellent. Capacity, about 8 place settings. Some moisture remained on dishes after drying. Control, poor; only one knob; if turned in one direction opens drawer, in other, starts operation. No control over cycle except for shortening or eliminating drying period. Impeller shielding, poor. Pilot light indicates drying portion of cycle. Cycle: pre-wash rinse, wash, 2 rinses, drying; total, about 37 min. of which 15 are for washing and rinsing.

The following models are, according to the manufacturer, substantially the same as the DWA-13, above, except as noted:

WESTINGHOUSE AUTOMATIC DISHWASHER DWA 24. $352.02. Cabinet model. 36x24x25½ (42½ open). Height to top of splash back, 40 in.

WESTINGHOUSE AUTOMATIC DISHWASHER DWA 48. $467.42. Combination dishwasher and sink.

Measuring cleanliness

To determine how clean the plates were after washing, CU utilized a method developed by the New York City Department of Health for its investigations of dishwashing effectiveness in restaurants. A small amount of a special dye which fluoresces under ultraviolet light was added to the detergent. Soil particles left on the dishes after washing absorb the dye, which glows when the utensils are examined under ultraviolet light. Incomplete rinsing off of detergent solution shows up in the same way. Dishes which look perfectly clean when given an ordinary visual examination may turn out to be far from clean when examined in this fashion. In the tests, the dishwashers generally proved to be a little better in cleaning silverware than dishes; the ratings are based on averages for both.

As a control, "duplicate" soiled dishes were washed by hand by a home economist with detergents treated with fluorescent dye. Even the best machines failed to cleanse an occasional dish thoroughly, but on the whole the results were better than with ordinary hand dishwashing. The poorest machines, on the other hand, gave worse results than even a hurried hand washing. On a comparative basis, the *Hotpoint, Westinghouse,* and *Kitchen Aid* were considered Good in cleaning; the *Sears Kenmores,* the *General Electric,* and the *James* were Fair; and the *Apex* and *Youngstown,* Poor.

All the machines left dishes cleaner when the dishes were rinsed as well as scraped before washing. The *Apex* gave dishes only one rinse after washing, as compared with two post-wash rinses on all the other machines tested. When the *Apex* control was set manually to give an extra rinse, the dishes came out much cleaner.

The three machines which washed the best—*Hotpoint, Kitchen Aid,* and *Westinghouse*—also did the best job of drying. The *Sears Kenmores* and the *General Electric* did a fair drying job, and the rest, a poor one.

Speed

If you have only one load of dishes to wash, and if you aren't in a hurry for those in the washer, how long the machine takes to finish a load doesn't matter much. If, however, you have a second load, or you need the dishes,

Continued on next page

36x48x25½ (42½ open). Height to top of splash back, 40 in.

Fair

¶ *Listed in order of estimated overall quality; differences among them were small.*

■ **JAMES AUTOMATIC DISHWASHER APJ*** (James Mfg. Co., Independence, Kan.). $229.95. "Portable"; requires no special installation. Top opening. 35½ (52 open) x18x25. 760 watts. Requires about 4 gal. hot water. Dishwashing ability, good. Capacity, about 8 place settings. Has glass top; stainless steel interior. Racks, good. No drying cycle. Inconvenient to clean; strainer not removable. Cycle: wash, 2 rinses; total, about 10 min. Lid lifting spring corroded somewhat during 700-cycle test. This model is no longer manufactured but may still be available from some dealers.

HOMESTEAD PORTABLE DISHWASHER Cat. No. B64R8237 (Spiegel, Chicago). $189.95 plus shipping. This model appears to be the same as the *James APJ*, above; it was listed in the catalog current in October 1952.

■ **GENERAL ELECTRIC AUTOMATIC DISHWASHER UC-100*** (General Electric Co., Bridgeport, Conn.). $328.95. Counter or under-counter model. Front opening. 34½x24x26½ (47 open); counter top 1½ in. thick with 3½-in splash back. 1250 watts. Requires 5 gal. hot water. Dishwashing ability, good. Capacity, about 8 place settings. Some moisture remained on dishes after drying. No indication of portion of cycle in use and no control of cycle except for shortening drying period. Cycle: pre-wash rinse, wash, 2 rinses, drying; total about 33 min. of which about 13 are for washing and rinsing.

The following model is, according to the manufacturer, substantially the same in operation as the UC-100 except as noted:

GENERAL ELECTRIC SINK SE-113. $469.95. Combination dishwasher and sink. 36x48x26½ (47 open); height to top of splash back, 39½ in.

■ **SEARS KENMORE AUTOMATIC DISHWASHER 787.25, Cat. No. 42JM6403*** (Sears-Roebuck). $269.50 plus shipping. "Portable"; requires no special installation; casters can be removed. Top opening, with round tub. 36 (60½ open) x 24x24. 1200 watts. Requires about 7 gal. hot water. Dishwashing ability, good. Capacity, about 6 place settings. Racks do not always prevent backs of pieces from resting against tub walls; points of contact were often unwashed. Some moisture remained after drying. No indication of portion of cycle in use except that lid rises during drying period; if lid is inadvertently held down, machine will start a new cycle after drying is finished. Cycle: pre-wash rinse, wash, 2 rinses, drying; total, about 35 min. of which 20 are for washing and rinsing. Nuts on underside of cover rusted during 700-cycle test and lid gasket had to be replaced. Has emptying pump.

The following models are, according to the manufacturer, substantially the same in operation as the 787.25, Cat. No. 42JM6403, above, except as noted:

SEARS KENMORE AUTOMATIC DISHWASHER 787.24, Cat. No. 42HM6400*. $229.50 plus shipping. Cabinet model. Dimensions same as for *787.25, Cat. No. 42JM6403,* above. Does not have an emptying pump.

SEARS KENMORE DISHWASHER AND SINK 787.48, Cat. No. 42HM6425G. $294.50 plus shipping. 36 (60½ open) x48x25 5/16; height to top of splash back, 40 in. This model is the same in operation as the *787.24,* above.

Poor

■ **APEX DISH-A-MATIC 970*** (Lake State Prod., Inc., subsidiary of Apex Electrical Mfg. Co., Cleveland). $340.95. Cabinet model. Top opening. 36 (54 open) x24x25; height to top of splash back containing dial, 40 in. 1700 watts. Requires 3 gal. hot water. Has electrically heated water-storage tank. Installation should include putting in a switch as a safety provision and as an economy measure if dishwasher is not to be used frequently. Dishwashing ability, poor; marked improvement was noted when controls were set manually to provide an extra rinse. Capacity, about 6 place settings. Racks relatively inconvenient. Drying, very poor. Control knob indicates portion of cycle in use. It can be advanced to skip portions of the cycle or turned back to repeat them. Cycle: wash, rinse, drying; total, about 30 min. of which 23 are for washing and rinsing.

NOT ACCEPTABLE

O YOUNGSTOWN KITCHEN AUTOMATIC DISHWASHER B-27-ID (Youngstown Kitchen Electric Div., Mullins Mfg. Corp., Salem, Ohio). $329.95. Cabinet model. Top opening with round tub. 36 (60 open) x27x26. 2000 watts. Requires about 6 gal. hot water. Poor dishwashing ability and poor convenience rating.

The following model is, according to the manufacturer, substantially the same in operation as the B-27-ID, above:

YOUNGSTOWN KITCHEN ELECTRIC SINK B-48-ID*. $429.95. 36 (60 open) x48x26.

DISHWASHERS continued

speed may be important. The length of a full operating cycle varied among the machines tested from ten minutes (for the *James*, which has no drying cycle) to 50 minutes for the *Hotpoint*, which devotes 30 minutes to drying). The *Kitchen Aid* and the *Westinghouse* take about 35 minutes for a full cycle, with over 20 minutes of the time being devoted to drying.

Capacity and loading

The larger dishwashers, including *Hotpoint*, *Kitchen Aid*, *Westinghouse*, *James*, and *General Electric*, can accommodate settings for eight persons (dinner plates, cups, saucers, salad plates, dessert plates, and glasses, plus silverware); and the remainder can hold settings for six. However, such a statement of capacity is quite deceptive, as it makes no allowance for such auxiliary pieces as serving platters, bowls and refrigerator dishes, all of which occupy considerable space. As a result, a machine rated for eight settings may barely accommodate the dishes used in the preparation and serving of a dinner for four. In general, rectangular tubs and racks had greater capacity than round ones, and the corners of the rectangular racks were found convenient for bowls or other odd-shaped or deep pieces.

On all the machines tested, there are two racks, one above the other, for the loading of dishes. Not all were judged equally easy to load and unload. The *Kitchen Aid*, a front-opening washer with an upper rack which slides out independently of the lower rack, was judged the best in this respect. The two racks are separately loaded, and it is never necessary to lift one rack to get at the other. On the others, the top rack must be lifted to gain access to the lower rack.

Controls

The simplest controls, those on the *Westinghouse*, *General Electric*, *Sears*, and *Youngstown* machines, consist of nothing more than on-off switches and a latch. On these machines, there is no way of changing the cycles. On the other machines, the controls allow the user to vary the cycle by turning the control knobs to the desired point for wash, rinse, or dry. On the *Hotpoint* the control has no markings, and it takes some familiarity with the machine before the user can tell from a glance at the knob just what the machine is doing at that moment. The *James* has a glass top so that you can see just what is going on inside. With the controls on the *Kitchen Aid*, *James*, *Apex*, and *Hotpoint*, the user can omit or repeat any portion of the cycle. The *Kitchen Aid* and the *Hotpoint*, both of which have heating elements used for drying dishes, can also be used as dish-warmers.

On all of the dishwashers, opening the loading door when the machine is operating interrupts the cycle. With some of the machines water will splash out if the door is opened rapidly, even though the cycle stops. Most machines will pick up exactly where they left off if they are interrupted during the wash-rinse-dry cycle.

Other considerations

CLEANING THE MACHINES is in general not much of a problem. The interiors, of vitreous enamel or stainless steel, are pretty well cleaned by the washing process, though some food particles are sometimes left behind. The mottled enamel in some machines, incidentally, tends to camouflage such food particles.

Food particles washed off during operation are kept from recirculating by screens. On most machines the screens are self-cleaning—that is, when the water drains out of the tank it carries the residue away with it. On the *James* and the *Youngstown*, however, the screens must be cleansed frequently by the user.

SAFETY: Properly installed, none of the machines tested should present any electrical hazard to the user. The principal hazard to dishes and other utensils in machine washing is from stacking or loading them improperly, so that pieces fall down into the impeller or other moving parts or project from the trays so that they may be damaged when the machine is closed. On most machines, moving parts are protected by screens, but on some there is the possibility of considerable damage as a result of careless loading of tableware.

Surface temperatures of the machines when in use were not so hot as to create burn hazards but the tops of the *Apex* and the *Youngstown*, which have water heaters, become quite hot.

OPERATING COST: This was calculated on the basis of laboratory test data using a figure of 3¢ per kilowatt hour for electricity and two loads a day as typical use. The cheapest machine to run, from the standpoint of electricity consumed, was the *James* which cost about 10¢ a month on this basis. The *James*, it should be noted, has no heater for drying the dishes. Operating costs for the others ranged from 65¢ up. The most expensive to operate of the top-rated models was the *Hotpoint*, at $1.22 a month. The *Apex* and the *Youngstown*, which have water heaters that operate intermittently, whether or not the machines are in use, cost $1.62 a month, and $1.41 a month, respectively, for electric current (76¢ and 90¢ a month, respectively, to keep the water hot). Hot water cost for operation would depend, of course, on water heating costs in the user's home. The detergent cost would come to about a cent a day, for two daily loads.

NOTE TO READERS

The December issue of CONSUMER REPORTS is the annual Buying Guide, and there is no regular issue for that month. The Buying Guide issue will be sent to all who are subscribers in December, including those who receive subscriptions to CONSUMER REPORTS as Christmas gifts.

stainless steel flatware

Simple design combined with good durability is not always expensive, CU's tests reveal

While stainless steel flatware does not yet share the wedding-present tradition of sterling silver, it is fast finding its way to the American dining table. This is doubtless due in part to a recognition of the practicality of the material, partly to the improvements in design and manufacture achieved since the days when stainless steel was made principally as plastic-handled picnic ware.

In price, stainless steel ware ranges from less than $1 to about $12 for a four-piece setting (dinner knife, fork, teaspoon and soup spoon). Many of the higher-priced, imported brands cost more than much good silver plate, which runs around $6 to $7 for the same four pieces. On the other hand, several brands rated Good were comparatively inexpensive, and all three of the brands rated Best Buys cost $1.60 or less for a setting.

Utility is the big feature of stainless steel ware. Properly made of a high-grade alloy, it is strong, resists staining, and, with ordinary usage, should last almost indefinitely. Unlike silver, stainless steel is not tarnished by eggs or other sulfur-containing foods, or by long exposure to air.

Enforced simplicity

In the selection of any table ware, design is an important consideration. Much of the available stainless tableware will appeal to persons whose tastes run toward the simple and functional. The tendency toward clean design in stainless ware is a result of the medium in which the designs are executed. The complex patterns common in silver are not practical for steel because the metal is so tough.

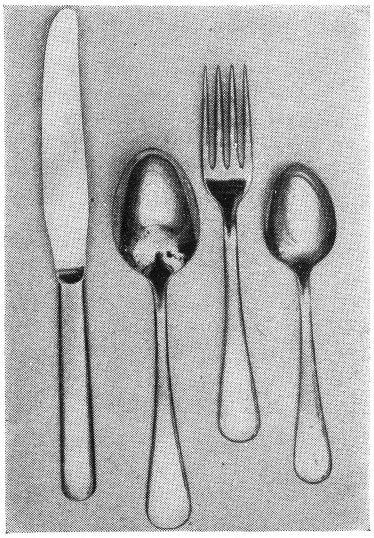
Forty-five brands of stainless ware were included in CU's tests, 17 of them foreign made (Scandinavian, German, Italian, and Japanese). The two brands with the highest ratings (*Dannebrogg*, $12.33 for four pieces, and *Centa*, $9.10 for four pieces) were both made in Denmark. A number of the domestic brands, however, were rated Good, and all three Best Buys—*Sherwood* ($1.53 for a four-piece setting), *Silco Empire* ($1.60 for a four-piece setting), and *Silco Windsor* ($1.37 for a four-piece setting)—are American.

The imported steelware—most of it starkly simple—is generally sold in department stores and other places where modern furnishings are available. If you are interested in particular brands and cannot find them in your usual shopping places, you may be able to obtain information on their distribution from the importer.

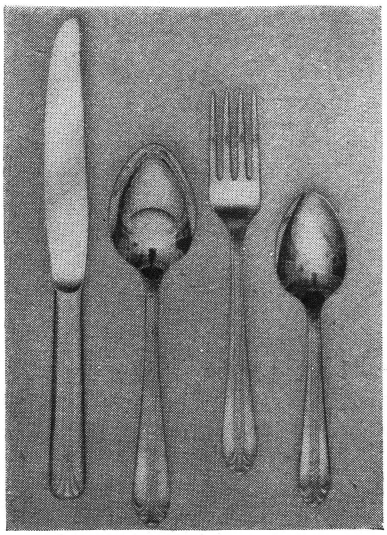
Twelve brands out of the 45 tested were rated Not Acceptable because they were found to be very poor in at least one of the three major characteristics considered in the ratings: workmanship and construction, resistance to staining, and strength.

Workmanship and construction

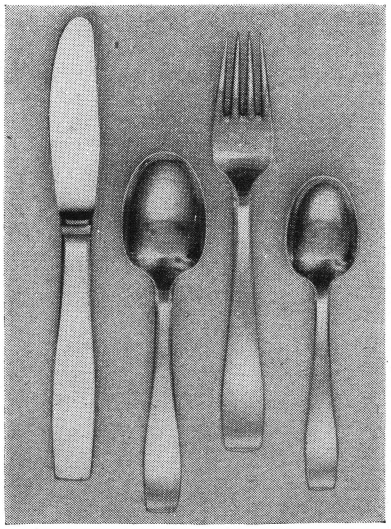
At least two table knives, forks, teaspoons, and soup spoons of each brand were examined for rough or sharp edges; marks from trimming, grinding, or other working; pitted surfaces which might be particularly susceptible to corrosion; and discolorations caused by overheating in the manufacturing operations, such as grinding. In addition, forks were examined for alignment of tines and smoothness of the edges and points of the tines, and knives for



Silco Windsor, a Best Buy, is sold by restaurant supply houses



Sherwood, another Best Buy, has more conventional ornamentation



Dannebrogg, rated the best brand tested, was also the most costly

alignment of blades with the handles and for exposed cement if they were of cemented two-piece construction. (There are three types of knife construction: one-piece with solid handle, two-piece with solid handle, and two-piece with hollow handle. Hollow handles are usually more expensive, but many of the brands rated Good have solid-handle knives.)

There are two classes of alloy used in the manufacture of stainless steel tableware, chrome steel and nickel-chrome steel. Chrome steels are harder and are more difficult to work; they are less likely to result in a fine-quality finish than nickel-chrome steels. The chrome-steel alloys have a cold bluish glint as compared to the warmer-looking yellowish-silver tone of steels alloyed with nickel. Unfortunately, nickel is in short supply today, and its use by American manufacturers for table ware has been prohibited by the Federal government. Some of the foreign firms use nickel alloys, however, and some American stainless made before the government's prohibition was put into effect may still be available. You can differentiate the alloys by testing them with a magnet; the chrome steels are magnetic, while the nickel alloys are not.

Inexpensive stainless tableware is usually simply stamped out of metal blanks, and each knife, fork, and spoon has the same thickness at all points. Some—but not all—of the more expensive ware is tapered (or "graded," in trade terminology) toward the ends of the handles, the edges of spoon bowls, and the tips of fork tines. Knife blades are tapered in almost all flatware. Graded ware is more pleasant in appearance and balance than ungraded; the Good and Fair brands which are graded are so noted in the ratings.

Stain resistance

In normal household use, good stainless steel remains bright and unstained. In CU's tests, the flatware pieces were exposed to foods known to be somewhat corrosive to stainless steel: juices of sauerkraut, sour cherry, loganberry, and rhubarb, plus vinegar, brine, and a mixture of acetic acid (the active ingredient of vinegar) and salt. These were applied to the pieces after they had been thoroughly cleansed. After drops of the various staining agents had been allowed to dry on them, the test pieces were washed again and examined for stains. Of the 45 brands in the survey, only nine were sufficiently stained by any of the chemicals to be considered less than Good in resistance to staining, and only one, the Not Acceptable *Windsor B* (a Japanese import not to be confused with the Best Buy *Silco*

RATINGS OF 45 BRANDS OF STAINLESS STEEL FLATWARE:

Listed in order of estimated overall quality. At least eight pieces of each brand were tested. The price given for each brand is the average of what CU's shoppers paid in different stores (prices of some brands varied considerably from store to store). Unless otherwise indicated, prices are for a four-piece setting: solid-handle knife, fork, teaspoon, and soup spoon.

BEST BUYS

■■ **SHERWOOD, Ward's Cat. No. 86A4812** (Oneida Ltd., Oneida, N.Y.; sold by Montgomery Ward). $9.95 for 26-piece set ($1.53, calculated, for four-pieces). Mirror finish.

■■ **SILCO EMPIRE** (International Silver Co., NYC). $1.60. Mirror finish. Partially graded.

■■ **SILCO WINDSOR** (International Silver Co., NYC). $5.48 for 16 pieces at restaurant supply houses ($1.37, calculated, for four pieces). Mirror finish. Partially graded.

ACCEPTABLE

Good

¶ *The following two brands were substantially superior in estimated overall quality to all others tested.*

■ **DANNEBROGG** (Plata, Denmark; imported by Vaco Co., NYC). $12.33. Hollow-handle knife. Satin finish. Partially graded.

■ **CENTA** (Bogelund-Jensen, Denmark; imported by A. Hempel Trading, Inc., NYC). $9.10. Hollow-handle knife. Satin finish. Graded.

■ **FACETTE** (A/B Gense, Sweden; imported by Gense Import, Ltd., NYC). $5.40. Satin finish.

■■ **SHERWOOD, Ward's Cat. No. 86A4812** (see Best Buys). $9.95 for 26-piece set ($1.53, calculated, for four pieces).

■ **MILANO** (Art. Krupp, Italy; imported by Fraser's, Berkeley, Calif.). $7.25. Mirror finish. Partially graded.

■ **THEBE** (A/B Gense, Sweden; imported by Gense Import, Ltd., NYC). $7.90 for 6-piece place setting ($5.27, calculated, for four pieces). Medium gloss finish. Partially graded.

■ **ROYAL COMMAND** (National Silver Co., NYC). $2.91. Mirror finish. Graded.

■ **ATHEIAN** (J. Axel Jansson, Sweden; sold by John Wanamaker, NYC). $2.95. Mirror finish.

■ **ROYAL CASTLE** (A. B. Nils-Johan, Stockholm, Sweden; sold by Swedish Metalcraft, Inc., NYC). $6.50 for 6-piece place setting ($4.33, calculated, for four pieces). Mirror finish.

■■ **SILCO EMPIRE** (see Best Buys). $1.60.

■■ **SILCO WINDSOR** (see Best Buys). $1.37.

■ **REGINA** (K/B Broderna Wallins Nysilverfabrik, Lidkoping, Sweden; sold by B. Altman & Co., NYC). $18.95 for 24-piece set ($3.16, calculated, for four pieces). Mirror finish.

■ **SIEGFRIED** (C. Hugo Pott, Solingen, Germany; imported by Fraser's). $6.30. Hollow-handle knife. Satin finish on handles; mirror finish on remainder of each piece. Partially graded.

Fair

■ **CANUTE** (Georg Jensen, Denmark; sold by Georg Jensen). $11.75. Hollow-handle knife. Satin finish. Partially graded.

■ **SERENADE** (Arnbe Stainless Div. of Reed & Barton Corp., Taunton, Mass.). $2.52. Mirror finish.

■ **ANEMONE** (H. Boker & Co., NYC). $27.50 for 24-piece set ($3.30 calculated, for four pieces). Hollow-handle knife. Satin finish on handles; mirror finish on remainder of each piece.

■ **SWEDISH HELMET** (A. B. Nils-Johan; sold by Swedish Metalcraft, Inc.). $5.65 for 6-piece place setting ($3.77, calculated, for four pieces). Mirror finish. Partially graded.

■ **LINCOLN Cat. No. 9H9170** (Sears-Roebuck). $9.50 for 24-piece set ($1.58, calculated, for four pieces). Mirror finish. Partially graded.

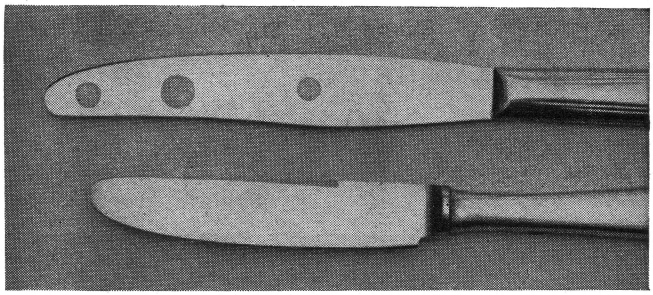
Windsor) was very poor in this respect.

Scratches or surface imperfections tend to affect adversely the stain resistance of stainless steel tableware. Consequently, it should not be cleaned with scouring powder or steel wool. It is advisable to wash stainless steel soon after using it to minimize any possible staining.

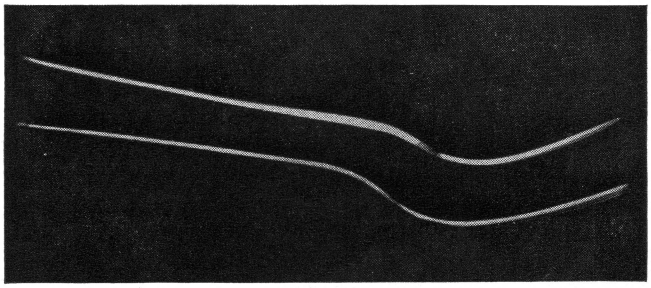
Strength and finish

Judging from the results of CU's tests, the strength of stainless steel knives, forks, and spoons bears a reasonably close relationship to their weight. The relatively heavy brands were Excellent or Good in their resistance to deformation of handles or fork tines. The medium-weight pieces were generally at least Fair. And the lightweight pieces were, in many cases, inferior. All the brands given overall ratings of Good were at least Fair in strength.

Stainless ware is sold in a mirror-like, highly lustrous finish, a medium gloss, and a satin (low gloss) finish. The choice among them is largely a matter of taste, but it should be noted that the satin finish has one clear advantage: scratches resulting from use are less apparent than on a mirror finish. Other things being equal, satin-finished ware is likely to cost somewhat more than mirror-finished ware. The type of finish of each brand rated Fair or better is noted in its rating.



Marlene (top) stained badly in tests, and it was rated Not Acceptable. Most brands showed little or no staining



The top fork is "graded" (tapered in thickness); the lower one is uniform in thickness throughout. Graded tableware is preferred

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■ **NEW LOOK** (Diamond Silversmiths, Ltd., Div. of Ekco Prod. Co., Chicago). $2.73. Mirror finish. Partially graded.

■ **OTHELLO** (Anton Wingen, Jr., Solingen, Germany; sold by B. Altman). $14.95 for 24-piece set ($2.49, calculated, for four pieces). Hollow-handle knife. Satin finish on handles, mirror finish on remainder of each piece. Graded.

■ **PATINA** (Diamond Silversmiths, Ltd., Div. of Ekco Prod. Co.). $4.60. Hollow-handle knife. Mirror finish. Partially graded.

■ **ENDEARMENT** (Englishtown Cutlery, Ltd., NYC). $1.93. Mirror finish.

■ **KAGLEHOLM, Ward's Cat. No. 86A4804** (Solliden Aktiebolag, Boras, Sweden; sold by Montgomery Ward). $16.95 for 26-piece set ($2.61 calculated, for four pieces). Hollow-handle knife. Mirror finish. Partially graded.

■ **BEACON** (Wallace Bros., Div. of R. Wallace & Sons Mfg. Co., Wallingford, Conn.). $2.07. Mirror finish.

■ **GRADE A Model No. JIS Z5401, Z5402** (Okaya Co., Japan; sold by Gimbel Bros., NYC). $4.95 for 24-piece set (83¢, calculated, for four pieces). Mirror finish. Partially graded.

■ **MANHATTAN, Sears Cat. No. 9H1099** (Kingston Ct. Co., Japan; sold by Sears-Roebuck). $4.95 for 24-piece set (83¢, calculated, for four pieces). Mirror finish.

■ **VOSS STYLE No. 111** (made in Solingen, Germany; imported by Voss Cutlery Co., NYC). $4.35. Hollow-handle knife. Satin finish on handle; mirror finish on remainder of each piece.

Poor

■ **METROPOLITAN Cat. No. 9H9130** (Sears-Roebuck). $4.79 for 24-piece set (80¢, calculated, for four pieces).

■ **POSY** (National Silver Co.). $1.26.

■ **PROM Cat. No. 9H9100** (Sears-Roebuck). $3.88 for 24-piece set (65¢, calculated, for four pieces).

■ **BONNIE** (Wallace Bros., Div. of R. Wallace & Sons Mfg. Co.). $5.39 for 24-piece set (90¢, calculated, for four pieces).

■ **LADY AUDREY** (H. Boker & Co.). $6.75 for 24-piece set ($1.13, calculated, for four pieces).

■ **PRISTINE** (National Silver Co.). $1.95. Hollow-handle knife.

NOT ACCEPTABLE

¶ *The following brands were judged Not Acceptable for the reasons stated.*

○ **BUFFET** (Majestic Silver Co., New Haven). $6.07 for 24-piece set ($1.01, calculated, for four pieces). Very poor workmanship.

○ **ADMIRAL** (Wallace Bros., Div. of R. Wallace & Sons Mfg. Co.). $4.64 for 24-piece set (77¢, calculated, for four pieces). Very poor strength.

○ **KEEPSAKE** (Diamond Silversmiths, Ltd., Div. of Ekco Prod. Co.). $1.48. Very poor strength.

○ **KENDRICK** (Hobson & Botts Co., Danbury, Conn.; sold by F. W. Woolworth). 78¢. Very poor workmanship.

○ **WINDSOR "B"** (Chase Import Corp., Japan). $1. Very poor stain resistance.

○ **STRAND** (Diamond Silversmiths, Ltd., Div. of Ekco Prod. Co.). $1.36. Very poor workmanship.

○ **SILCO LIBERTY** (International Silver Co.). $7.95 for 24-piece set ($1.33, calculated, for four pieces). Very poor strength.

○ **DOVER** (Englishtown Cutlery, Ltd.). $8.98 for 26-piece set ($1.38, calculated, for four pieces). Very poor workmanship.

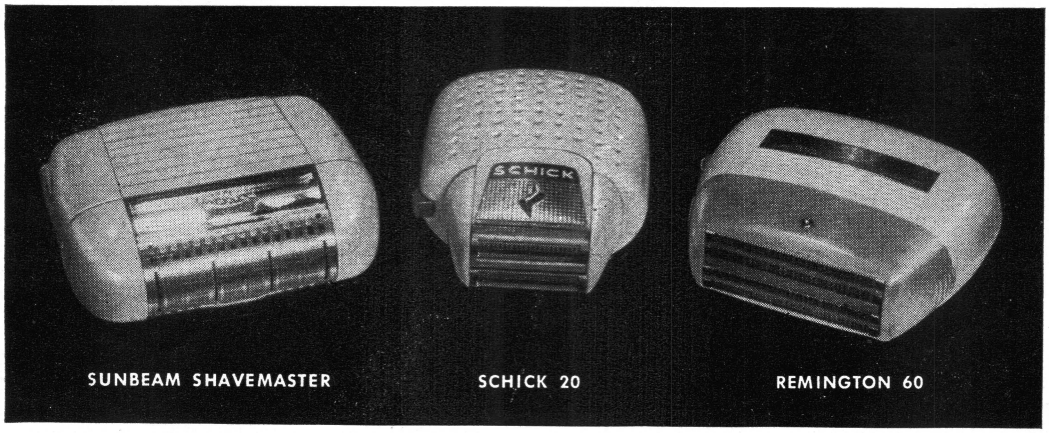
○ **DUTCH GARDEN** (Diamond Silversmiths, Ltd., Div. of Ekco Prod. Co.). $6.98 for 30-piece set (93¢, calculated, for four pieces). Very poor workmanship and strength.

○ **ULTRA** (Gailstyn Co., NYC). $5.74 for 24-piece set (96¢, calculated, for four pieces). Very poor workmanship.

○ **DINETTE** (Washington Forge, Inc., Englishtown, N. J.). $4.50 for 24-piece set (75¢, calculated, for four pieces). Very poor workmanship.

○ **MARLENE** (Washington Forge, Inc.). $3.75 for 24-piece set (63¢, calculated, for four pieces). Poor workmanship, stain resistance, and strength.

electric shavers



No shaver pleased all 45 testers, but some were outstanding in closeness of shave

With the aid of a test panel of 45 men who regularly use electric shavers, CU rated ten of the most widely sold electric shavers on the market. No single one of the shavers pleased all of the testers, and there was no shaver that wasn't liked by at least a few. CU must therefore repeat the advice it has given year after year. Whether you are buying one for yourself or as a gift for someone else, be sure you can return or exchange it if it doesn't prove satisfactory. Your choice will probably depend on what characteristics are most important to you, since no one shaver is superior in all respects. The shaver that was found by most testers to give the closest shave, for example, was also found to be the most irritating to the skin. If you want a minimum of irritation, you may have to sacrifice closeness and speed. Analysis of the results of CU's use tests indicates the following choices:

FOR THE CLOSEST SHAVE the *Sunbeam Shavemaster W*, $26.50, was rated highest by more testers than any other shaver, with the *Remington 60*, $27.50, the *Sears Craftsman*, $16.75 plus shipping, and the *Schick 20*, $24.50, following in that order. If the closest shave possible is desired, the *Sunbeam* may be the best choice even though it ranked only slightly above average in speed, and a poor last in absence of irritation. It is important to note, however, that though more jury members found the *Sunbeam* more irritating than any other shaver tested, fewer than a third of the testers judged the shaver seriously annoying in this respect. Many testers reported negligible irritation.

FOR ABSENCE OF IRRITATION: The *Schick 20* led in this respect, by a large margin over the three runners-up: The *Schick Super*, $22.50; the *Schick Colonel*, $19.50 and the *Norelco*, $19.95. The *Schick 20* may not shave as closely as the *Sunbeam*, but it is likely to be a good choice for the man with sensitive skin.

FOR THE FASTEST SHAVE: The *Remington 60* was rated fastest by more testers than any other shaver. It was well ahead of its closest rivals in this respect—the *Remington Contour Deluxe*, $25.50, the *Schick 20*, and the *Sunbeam*. It ranked very nearly as high as the *Sunbeam* in closeness of shave, but it was judged to be nearly as irritating as the *Sunbeam*. Nevertheless, it may well be first choice for the man who shaves by the minute hand and has to race for the 8:05.

How CU tested

The 45 jury members tested the shavers in pairs, using one shaver on the left side of the face, the other on the right side, and reversing them every day for a week. Once a week, each jury member returned his shavers and received two new shavers to test. At the end of five weeks, each tester had used each of the ten models for a one-week period. The test was so designed that each model was paired with each of the other nine, and the reports were analyzed statistically.

The testers were asked to list their preferences in each pair in closeness, speed, absence of irritation, trimming of moustache and sideburns, ease of cleaning, effectiveness on long hairs, effectiveness under the neck, retention of cut hairs, pulling, and tiring. The table on page 515 indicates how each of the ten shavers ranked in six of the most important characteristics.

After the five-week test period, all the shavers were tested in the laboratory for current leakage and shock

hazard, under conditions of high temperature and high humidity. None were found defective in this respect.

All the shavers tested were sold with a one-year guarantee against mechanical breakdown with repairs or replacement of defective parts made free of charge during that time. *Remington* offers to clean, oil, and adjust its shavers every three to six months, or when needed, without charge during the warranty period. *Schick* shavers mailed to the factory for repair or adjustment must be accompanied by 25¢ "to cover the cost of shipping and insurance."

LISTING OF TEN ELECTRIC SHAVERS: *All were considered Good or Fair in overall performance by a majority of the test panel. All could be used on a-c or d-c. Nine samples of each model were tested. Prices given are list prices as of September 1952.*

¶ *The following three electric shavers ranked highest in either closeness of shave, speed, or absence of irritation.*

SCHICK 20 (Schick, Inc., Stamford, Conn.). $24.50. Squat-shaped, two-head shaver. Ranked highest in absence of irritation, and was judged least tiring by the highest proportion of users. Ranked above average in closeness, speed, trimming, and ease of cleaning. Ranked highest in overall performance.

SUNBEAM SHAVEMASTER Model W (Sunbeam Corp., Chicago). $26.50. Wide, squat-shaped, single-head shaver. Ranked highest in closeness of shave and slightly above average in speed. Was considered irritating by almost a third of the testers. Ranked poor in trimming mustache and sideburns by about half of the testers.

REMINGTON 60 (Remington Rand, Inc., Bridgeport, Conn.). $27.50. Wide, squat-shaped, two-head shaver. Shaving heads are almost twice as long as on *Remington Contour DeLuxe*, below. Ranked highest in speed, effectiveness under the neck, and effectiveness on long hairs. Ranked second in closeness, but below average in absence of irritation.

¶ *The following electric shavers are listed alphabetically. For their ranking in major performance characteristics, see table below.*

CRAFTSMAN Cat. No. 9G9282 (Sears-Roebuck). $16.75 plus shipping. Long, tapering, three-head shaver (one flat head and two rounded heads), similar to the *Remington Foursome* produced in 1946. Sold with 30-day "money back if not satisfied" guarantee. It ranked high in closeness and in effectiveness on long hairs, and was judged the best for trimming mustaches and sideburns. It ranked average or better on all other counts.

KOBLER DUAL (Kobler Shaver Co., Lynnbrook, N.Y.). $34.25. Made in Switzerland. Long, tapering, two-head shaver.

KOBLER V-MATIC (Kobler Shaver Co.). $42.50. Long, tapering, two-head shaver. Similar to *Kobler Dual*, above, except that its shaving heads are not parallel, but at an angle of about 15° relative to each other. The *V-Matic* was not appreciably better than the *Dual* in any respect, and was judged poorer in some respects. A novel feature of both *Koblers* is the cord, which is permanently attached; when it is wound around the shaver, the plug acts as a cap for the shaver's heads.

NORELCO Model 7735 and Model 7746 (North American Philips Co., NYC). $19.95. Models differed only in cord attachment. Tapering body with single round head protruding from the side. Ranked lowest of all shavers tested in five out of ten characteristics and below average in three others.

REMINGTON CONTOUR DELUXE (Remington Rand, Inc.). $25.50. Long, tapering, three-head shaver. Though this shaver ranked fifth in closeness of shave, it was not far behind the best, and was considered to give close shaves by about three-fourths of the testers.

SCHICK COLONEL 330 (Schick, Inc.). $19.95. Intermediate in shape between the long and squat models. Single head shaver.

SCHICK SUPER 400 (Schick, Inc.). $22.50. Long, tapered, two-head shaver.

RANKING OF TEN ELECTRIC SHAVERS

Differences between adjacent models are small, except where lines indicate large differences.

Preference	Closeness	Absence of irritation	Speed	Trimming mustache, sideburns	Effectiveness on long hair	Ease of cleaning
1	Sunbeam	Schick 20	Remington 60	Craftsman	Remington 60	Schick Col.
2	Remington 60	Schick Sup.	Rem. Contour	Schick 20	Craftsman	Schick Sup.
3	Craftsman	Schick Col.	Schick 20	Remington 60	Schick 20	Schick 20
4	Schick 20	Norelco	Sunbeam	Kobler D.	Rem. Contour	Remington 60
5	Rem. Contour	Craftsman	Craftsman	Kobler V.	Kobler D.	Rem. Contour
6	Kobler V.	Kobler D.	Schick Sup.	Schick Col.	Kobler V.	Craftsman
7	Kobler D.	Remington 60	Kobler V.	Schick Sup.	Schick Sup.	Norelco
8	Schick Sup.	Kobler V.	Kobler D.	Rem. Contour	Sunbeam	Kobler D.
9	Schick Col.	Rem. Contour	Schick Col.	Sunbeam	Schick Col.	Kobler V.
10	Norelco	Sunbeam	Norelco	Norelco	Norelco	Sunbeam

PORTABLE ELECTRIC DRILLS

CU tested 31 quarter-inch electric drills designed for light, standard, and heavy duty use

If he doesn't already own one, the home craftsman will probably welcome a gift of a portable electric drill. While this power tool is likely to be welcomed even by the man who only occasionally drills a few holes in wood, it comes close to being a necessity for the amateur cabinet-maker or for anyone who has occasion to drill in steel or other hard metals. Without the use of power, drilling through even a "mild" steel can be an arduous, hand-blistering task.

The price of the 31 nationally sold drills CU purchased for its tests ranged from $11.45 to $54. Light-duty drills, generally the least expensive, should be adequate for the average hobbyist. The best of the drills tested in this class were found to be the *Skil Model 549* selling for $23.95 and the *Sioux 1885A* at $25.45. The best of the standard-duty drills tested was the Sears *Craftsman, Cat. No. 9G-2570,* priced at $35.95 plus shipping, and the best heavy-duty drill was the *Porter-Cable Model D6,* priced at $44.50.

All the drills tested were so-called quarter-inch drills, meaning that they will hold any ordinary drill bit with a shank of this diameter or less. It means too that this is the largest size hole that can be made in steel or other hard metals without overloading the drill. Although advertisements may give a buyer the illusion that he is purchasing the power of a pair of well-matched percherons, even the most powerful of the quarter-inch drills CU tested had only fractional horsepower motors. Using augur bits with one-quarter inch shanks, these tools will drill larger holes in wood (most of them will drill holes up to one inch in diameter), but any over-optimistic attempt to drill holes appreciably larger than one-quarter inch in metal is likely to overload the drill and injure it.

Consumers are led to believe that attachments will enable a small drill to perform the work of machines having many times its power. Typical of these attachments is an adapter chuck to take one-half-inch-shank drills and bits; if the drill were capable of this capacity, it would have been equipped with a larger chuck in the first place. Still worse are the widely sold circular-saw attachments. When attached to a heavy-duty drill, which is necessary to power them, they are difficult to balance, or to saw with in a straight line. They offer no protection to the user from the lower part of the saw blade, and they can be dangerous.

There are many good accessories which will extend a drill's usefulness beyond its basic function of drilling holes in wood, plastic, metal, concrete, and other materials. These include grinding wheels for sharpening small hand tools (but a stand is needed to hold the drill); wire brushes for removing rust or dirt from metallic surfaces; disc sanders for sanding wood and plastics; and buffers and polishers. (Be sure to get the smallest diameter sanders and buffers and polishers for light duty drills; at least a standard duty drill is desirable for buffing.) A small arbor may be purchased to hold accessories in place on the drill. Horizontal stands are available for many of the drills. Vertical stands are also available for some drills to convert the drill into a drill press of sorts. With it, one can locate the holes more precisely, and drill them perpendicular to the surface of the work.

Light, standard, and heavy duty

All the drills in CU's tests were powered by universal motors—that is, motors which operate on either alternating current (ac) or direct current (dc). They draw more current as the work load is increased—as when you bear down on the drill heavily. The amperage under full load, given on the nameplate of the drill, indicates whether the drill is intended for light-, standard-, or heavy-duty use, in accordance with the Commercial standard recommended by the U.S. Department of Commerce. The classifications are as follows:

light duty drills are those with full-load current ratings of less than 1.8 amperes. This type is adequate for drilling wood, and for occasional use on some metals. It has sufficient power to fill most needs of the average hobbyist or homeowner who has only occasional light drilling chores to do. Acceptable light-duty drills in CU's tests ranged in price from $11.45 plus shipping for Wards *Powr-Kraft Cat. No. 84B-2603* to $25.45 for the *Sioux 1885A.*

standard duty drills are those rated at 1.8 to 2.4 amperes. A good drill with this rating should fill virtually all the needs of the average homeowner or home craftsman. Standard-duty drills are also preferable to light-duty if the drill is to be used with such accessories as buffers or sanders. All those CU tested were found Acceptable, although they varied markedly in performance and price. They ranged from $17.50 for the low-rated *Mall Model 149* up to $45 for the *Thor Model 6935* which is labeled a heavy-duty drill, but falls just below the heavy-duty rating. Better drills and better buys are the two standard duty *Craftsman* models, both $35.95 plus shipping.

heavy-duty drills are those rated at 2.5 amperes and over. Here is maximum power for a quarter-inch drill, probably more than is needed by most craftsmen. And the good ones cost more than the best standard-duty drills in CU's tests: $44.50 for the outstandingly good *Porter-Cable,* and $44 for the next best heavy-duty drill, the *Stanley Model A, Type 166.*

The full-load ampere ratings given in CU's ratings of

portable electric drills are those of the manufacturer. In some instances the full-load amperages of the samples tested by CU did not conform to the name-plate figure. Such deviations are noted in the ratings. Thus, the *Thor 6374* was underrated at the stated 1.7 amperes—it actually drew about 2 amperes under load—and CU rated it with the standard-duty drills where it properly belongs.

Design features

Some design features to look for in a portable electric drill include a chuck that will hold drill bits securely and permit easy changing, good balance and comfortable "feel," and a convenient and easily operated on-off switch.

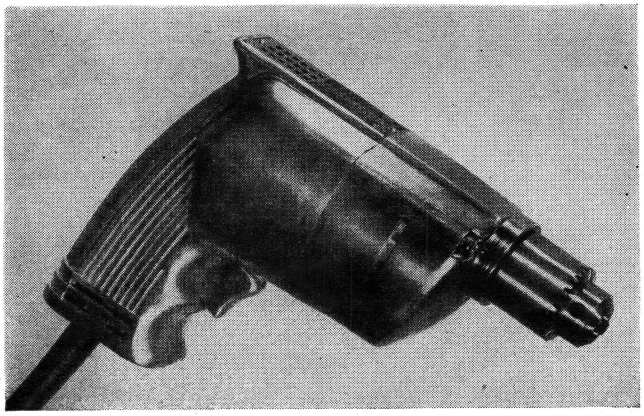
With some of the drills tested, different chuck types are available. Where there is a choice, CU recommends the geared-key chuck (commonly called "Jacobs" chuck) even at a slightly higher price. The geared-key chuck is the most convenient and the most reliable of the three chuck types generally employed. Inserting the geared key into a hole in the chuck and turning the key tightens the three vise-like chuck jaws quickly, and at once centers the bit and holds it firmly in place. If oiled occasionally, a geared-key chuck should give years of service.

Next best is the hex-key type of chuck which, after preliminary hand-tightening, is given a final tightening with the aid of a small, right angle Allen wrench. Hex-key chucks are less convenient to use than geared-key chucks. If this key is lost, however, a screwdriver can be used in the slot opposite the hex socket. The poorest chuck type of all is the hand-tightened chuck; it is often difficult to tighten and even more difficult to loosen. The samples CU tested tended not to center the drill bit properly; an off-center bit may lead to eccentric holes and broken drill bits.

Another important feature is the "feel" of a drill. A poorly balanced drill is fatiguing to use. The way the handle fits your hand is also important. CU's judgment of the "feel" of each drill tested is indicated in the table on page 519 but individual judgments differ and wherever possible, the user should try the drill for himself.

Two basic handle designs are available: the saw grip, which is used mainly on heavy-duty drills, and the pistol-grip, used chiefly on light-duty drills. Some users prefer one, some the other. The saw-grip design usually requires the use of both hands: one on the handle, the other helping to support the weight of the drill. Drills equipped with pistol-grips can usually be operated with one hand.

Most of the drills tested are equipped with trigger type "on-off" switches, which are easily operated by the index finger. A hold-down device is provided to allow continuous operation when the finger is off the trigger; slight pressure releases the trigger and shuts off the power. This type of switch was judged to be more convenient than the slide switches or the toggle switches found on some drills.



Best standard-duty drill tested was the Craftsman 9G-2570, $35.95 plus shipping. It comes with a geared-key chuck

How CU tested

Of the 31 portable electric drills tested, all but one light-duty drill passed CU's performance tests. Each drill was tested to determine its maximum power.

In another test, the drill was stalled for five seconds to see whether any damage to the windings resulted from the heavy current flowing through them. This test simulates the overload on a drill when stalled in actual use.

In the motor efficiency tests, each drill was operated at no load, at full load, and at about one-and-a-half times full load. Speed, current, torque and input were measured to show the power output and efficiency of each drill. These tests are measures of the motor's quality.

A high no-load speed indicates that the drill will cut holes in wood rapidly. Some brands are available in a range of no-load speeds for particular uses. Where a choice was available, CU selected those of 1800 to 2500 revolutions per minute as being most typically useful. Each drill has a no-load speed rating printed on its name-plate, but, in general, the rated speed proved to be higher than the actual no-load speed as determined by CU's tests.

Drill maintenance and durability

In addition to doing the performance tests, CU engineers took apart each drill and examined in detail the construction of its motor housing, switches, winding, bearings, gears, brushes, and other parts. The following features were considered especially important:

GEARS: Because of their high-speed motors, reduction gears are used in all of the drills tested to keep the speed of the chuck at a desirable level. In most of the drills tested, reduction gears are of steel, and these should wear well if kept lubricated. Some drills, however, were found to have bronze reduction gears which CU judged to be less durable (see ratings). Engineers also noted the ease of lubricating the gears; some of the gears were difficult to get at. Gear housings should be cleaned out and the gears repacked with grease from time to time.

BEARINGS: Ball or roller bearings were judged more durable than bronze bearings.

BRUSHES: Ease of brush inspection and replacement was also checked. Brushes should be inspected several times a year, and they should be replaced by new ones when they become shorter than one-quarter inch.

Whenever the commutator becomes rough or extremely

Continued on next page

dirty, it is a good idea to dress it with a special dressing stick or with very fine sandpaper, in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. Some of the drills tested had screw-on caps which could easily be removed for brush inspection and replacement; in others, however, the brushes could not be reached unless the drill was taken apart.

Hazards

CU tested each drill for current leakage at high humidity, and found a slight shock hazard—enough to feel, but not enough to be dangerous—in four models (see ratings).

Most of the drills tested are provided with a grounding arrangement, as noted in the ratings, to eliminate shock hazard. Grounding is accomplished by means of a three-wire electric cord. Electric cords should be kept free of oil and grease, which are harmful to rubber.

RATINGS OF 31 PORTABLE ¼" ELECTRIC DRILLS:

The following electric drills are grouped on the basis of CU's tests and do not in all cases correspond to the manufacturer's duty ratings. Ratings within each group are in order of estimated overall quality. All drills are for ac-dc operation. Except where noted, all had steel reduction gears, trigger-type switches, and were equipped with grounding wire. Prices are list as of September 1952. See table on opposite page for power output and other details not in the ratings. Ratings apply only to models and speeds listed. One sample of each drill was tested except as noted.

LIGHT-DUTY DRILLS (less than 1.8 amperes)

ACCEPTABLE

■ **SKIL Model 549** (Skilsaw, Inc., Chicago). $23.25. 1.3 amp. Performance good. Has one reduction gear of bronze, which is not as desirable as steel (see story). Geared-key chuck. Pistol grip. Two samples tested. Also available as *Model 518 Type 1*, with hex-key chuck, $20.50.

■ **SIOUX Cat. 1885A** (Rural Craft Div. of Albertson & Co., Sioux City, Iowa). $25.45. 1.5 amp.; slightly underrated. Performance fair. Geared-key chuck. Pistol grip. No grounding wire. Two samples tested. Also available as *No. 1885* at $19.95 with hex-key chuck.

■ **ZEPHYR 1950G** (Portable Electric Tools, Inc., Chicago). $21.95. 1.6 amp. Performance fair. Geared-key chuck. Pistol grip. No grounding wire. Also available as *Model 1950H* at $18.95 with hand-tightened chuck.

■ **POWR-KRAFT Cat. No. 84B-2623** (Montgomery Ward). $17.45 plus shipping. 1.6 amp. Appeared identical to *Zephyr 1950G* above. Same comments apply.

■ **FAIRCHILD Model F-149** (Fairchild Industries, Inc., Burlington, Vt.). $16.95. Current rating not given, but 1.4 amp. as measured. Performance good. Saw grip. Hand-tightened chuck. Slide switch. No grounding wire.

■ **BLACK & DECKER HOME UTILITY Cat. No. HU-1** (Black & Decker Mfg. Co., Towson, Md.). $22.95. 1.3 amp.; slightly underrated. Performance fair. Hex-key chuck. Pistol grip. Slight shock hazard if ungrounded.

■ **POWR-KRAFT Cat. No. 84B-2603** (Montgomery Ward). $11.45 plus shipping. 1.6 amp.; overrated. Performance fair. Hand-tightened chuck. Pistol grip. No grounding wire. Two samples tested.

■ **PORTABLE ELECTRIC TOOL Model 250** (Portable Electric Tools, Inc., Chicago). $18.65. Appeared to be identical to *Powr-Kraft Cat. No. 84B-2603* above except that it has a geared-key chuck. Same comments apply. Also available with hand-tightened chuck as *Model 77-H*, $13.95.

■ **STANLEY HANDYMAN Model H-41** (Stanley Electric Tools, New Britain, Conn.). $25. 1.4 amp. Performance relatively poor. Geared-key chuck. Pistol grip. Two samples tested. Also available as *Model H-19*, formerly designated *Model A, Type 019*, with hex-key chuck for $19.95.

NOT ACCEPTABLE

○ **GILBERT Model B-144** (A. C. Gilbert Co., New Haven, Conn.). $14.95. This drill was judged to have too little power to be of much use. It stalled frequently in use. Slight shock hazard.

STANDARD-DUTY DRILLS (1.8 to 2.4 amperes)

ACCEPTABLE

■ **CRAFTSMAN Cat. No. 9G-2570** (Sears-Roebuck). $35.95 plus shipping. 1.8 amp. Performance outstandingly good. Geared-key chuck. Pistol grip. Two samples tested.

■ **CRAFTSMAN Cat. No. 9G-2571** (Sears-Roebuck). $35.95 plus shipping. 1.8 amp. Performance outstandingly good, practically the same as *Cat. No. 9G-2570*. Geared-key chuck. Saw grip. Two samples tested.

■ **POWR-KRAFT Cat. No. 84B-3237M** (Montgomery Ward). $33.95 plus shipping. 2.4 amp. Almost in heavy-duty class. Performance outstandingly good as standard-duty drill. Geared-key chuck. Saw grip.

■ **PORTABLE ELECTRIC TOOL Model 1454** (Portable Electric Tools, Inc.). $39.50. Appeared identical to *Powr-Kraft Cat. No. 84B-3237M* above. Same comments apply.

■ **THOR SILVER LINE Model 6935,** Code U14F (2500 R.P.M.) (Independent Pneumatic Tool Co., Aurora, Ill.). $45. 2 amp.; underrated. Almost in heavy-duty class, as labeled. Performance good. Geared-key chuck. Pistol grip. Moving fan blade may be a slight hazard since ventilator slot is large enough so that blade edge can be touched with finger.

■ **SKIL Model 47** (Skilsaw, Inc.). $44.50. 2.2 amp. Labeled a heavy-duty drill but belongs in this group. Performance good as a standard-duty drill. Geared-key chuck. Pistol grip. Slight shock hazard if ungrounded. Two samples tested.

■ **THOR SILVER LINE Model 6374,** Code ED1 (2500 R.P.M.) (Independent Pneumatic Tool Co.). $42. 1.7 amp.; Underrated. Really belongs in the standard-duty class. Performance good. Geared-key chuck. Pistol grip.

■ **CRAFTSMAN Cat. No. 9G-2578** (Sears-Roebuck). $23.50 plus shipping. 1.8 amp. Performance fair. Geared-key chuck. Saw grip.

■ **GILBERT DELUXE Model B-148, Type A** (A. C. Gilbert Co.). $33.95. 180 watts full load rating; somewhat underrated; revised specifications give a higher full-load, the rating being very close to that found by C.U. Performance fair. Geared-key chuck. Saw grip.

■ **CRAFTSMAN Cat. No. 9G-2577** (Sears-Roebuck). $23.50 plus shipping. 1.8 amp. Performance fair. Geared-key chuck. Pistol grip. Toggle switch.

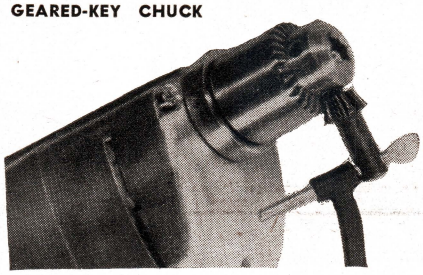
■ **POWR-KRAFT Cat. No. 84B3236M** (Montgomery Ward). $33.95 plus shipping. 2.4 amp. Performance fair. Geared-key chuck. Pistol grip.

■ **FASCO Model 14 Type A** (Fasco Industries, Inc., Rochester, N. Y.). $24.95. 2 amp. Performance fair. Hex-key chuck. Pistol grip. This model has been discontinued, but may still be sold in some stores.

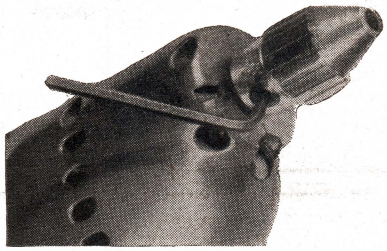
¶ *The following three drills are judged appreciably poorer than the others in this class in overall quality.*

■ **MILLERS FALLS Cat. No. 1914, Model 49** (Millers

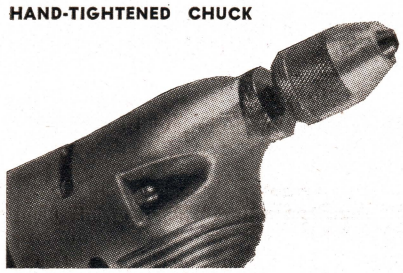
GEARED-KEY CHUCK



HEX-KEY CHUCK



HAND-TIGHTENED CHUCK



Falls Co., Greenfield, Mass.). $22.35. 2 amp. Performance poor. Geared-key chuck. Saw grip. Slide switch. No grounding wire. Also available as *Cat. No. 914, Model 49*, with hand-tightened chuck, $19.85.

■ **MALL Model 149B** (Mall Tool Co., Chicago). $20.50. 2.3 amp. Performance fair. Slight shock hazard. Geared-key chuck. Pistol grip. No grounding wire. Also available as *Model 149A* with hex-key chuck, $18.50, and *Model 149* with hand-tightened chuck, $17.50.

■ **CUMMINS Model 160** (Cummins Portable Tools, Chicago). $19.95. 2 amp. Performance very poor. Bronze reduction gear. Hex-key chuck. Saw grip. Slide switch. No grounding wire. Discontinued but may still be available.

■ **CUMMINS Model 38** (Cummins Portable Tools). $21.95. Performance very poor. Bronze reduction gear. Geared-key chuck. Pistol grip. No grounding wire. Also available with hand-tightened chuck as *Model 38-01*, $17.95.

HEAVY-DUTY DRILLS
(2.5 amperes or over)

ACCEPTABLE

¶ *The first drill listed is appreciably better in overall quality than the others.*

■ **PORTER-CABLE Model D6 COMBO-TOOL** (Porter-Cable Machine Co., Syracuse, N. Y.). $44.50. 3.5 amp. Performance outstandingly good. Least speed drop and most power available of all drills tested. Basically a disc grinder and polisher, but easily converted to drill with chuck accessory. Geared-key chuck. Pistol grip; removable side grip.

■ **STANLEY Model A, Type 166** (Stanley Electric Tools). $44. 3.4 amp. Performance good. Geared-key chuck. Pistol grip.

■ **SKIL Model 243** (Skilsaw, Inc.). $54. 4 amp. Performance good. Geared-key chuck. Saw grip.

■ **CUMMINS Model 425** (Cummins Portable Tools). $35.95. 2.5 amp. Performance poor for a heavy-duty drill, equivalent to that of the good standard-duty drills. Bronze reduction gear. Geared-key chuck. Saw grip.

■ **SPEED WAY BLUE LINE Type 200J** (Speedway Mfg. Co., Cicero, Ill.). $19.50. Lowest-priced of the heavy-duty drills. 3 amp. Performance very poor. Geared-key chuck. Pistol grip. Also available as *Model 200* with hand-tightened chuck, $16.50.

characteristics of acceptable ¼" electric drills

Listed in order of decreasing overall quality in each group

Brand & model, or Cat. No.	Max. power output in watts (approx.)	No-load speed		Ease of brush replacement	"Feel"
		Actual	Rated		
light duty					
SKIL 518, 549	70	1900	2000	Fair	Good
SIOUX 1885, 1885A	80	2775	2250	Good	Fair
ZEPHYR 1950G, 1950H and POWR-KRAFT 84B-2623	65	1400	1600	Poor	Poor
FAIRCHILD F-149	65	1200	1200	Good	Good
BLACK DECKER HU-1	75	2150	2250	Poor	Fair
POWR-KRAFT 84B-2603 and PORTABLE ELEC. TOOL 250	50	1525	1600	Good	Fair
STANLEY H-41, H-19	50	1675	1700	Poor	Fair
standard duty					
CRAFTSMAN 9G-2570	125	1800	1600	Poor	Good
CRAFTSMAN 9G-2571	120	1650	1600	Poor	Fair
POWR-KRAFT 84B-3237M and PORTABLE ELEC. TOOL 1454	135	1775	1800	Poor	Fair
THOR 6935, Code U14F	160	2250	2500	Poor	Fair
SKIL 47	125	1800	1800	Poor	Fair
THOR 6374, Code ED1	125	2500	2500	Poor	Fair
CRAFTSMAN 9G-2578	70	1825	1600	Good	Fair
GILBERT B-148, Type A	95	1975	2000	Good	Poor
CRAFTSMAN 9G-2577	70	1950	1600	Fair	Fair
POWR-KRAFT 84B3236M	85	1900	1800	Poor	Fair
FASCO Type A-14	95	1700	1500	Poor	Good
MILLERS FALLS 49	85	2400	2500	Good	Good
MALL 149, 149A, 149B	90	1875	2000	Poor	Poor
CUMMINS 160	50	1850	2200	Good	Good
CUMMINS 38, 38-01	50	2000	1800	Poor	Good
heavy duty					
PORTER-CABLE D6	225*	2025	3000	Good	Fair
STANLEY A-166	165	1950	2000	Poor	Fair
SKIL 243	200*	2450	2000	Good	Good
CUMMINS 425	115	2625	2200	Good	Fair
SPEED WAY 200J, 200	90	2500	2500	Poor	Fair

**Rating was taken at full load; maximum power should be somewhat higher.*

GIFTS FROM MUSEUMS

Most persons think of a museum as a showplace and a storehouse for treasured objects, as, of course, it is. But few realize that most museums also do a thriving business as salesrooms, not only of many of the treasured objects themselves, but also of a great many beautiful and interesting reproductions, facsimilies, books, and other things related to the treasures on display.

The price tags on the things the museums sell range from a few pennies to many dollars; and you may find it rewarding, for any price range, to do some looking in the salesrooms and the sales catalogs of the museums.

As shopping places for Christmas gifts, museums are unique in many respects. Since museums are nonprofit institutions, objects bought there are likely to be relatively low in price. Furthermore, the objects offered for sale are selected by the museums on the basis of expert judgment of merit and interest; though your own tastes won't necessarily agree with everything you see, you are assured that the things you select are good of their kind, not shoddy or in poor taste. And, since relatively few persons realize the attractions of a museum as a source of gifts, you can be fairly sure that the gift you select won't be nestled against its duplicate under the Christmas tree.

Most museums maintain a sales counter where you can inspect at leisure the wares offered for sale, and make your selection without sales pressure or undue haste. Most of them, furthermore, publish catalogs and price lists, available on request, which enable you to do your shopping by mail from anywhere in the country.

CU's survey of the kinds of things the museums sell is not intended to be either comprehensive or even truly representative. It is aimed, rather, at transmitting to readers some inkling of the range of things to be had, and the prices at which they are sold.

REPRODUCTIONS

Most art museums sell a wide range of reproductions, in both color and black-and-white, ranging in size from post cards to beautifully reproduced and framed facsimiles. Here are a few examples:

POST CARDS range in price from as little as a penny each for black-and-whites to about 10¢. In some museums, they are available in sets of the works of a painter, or of a period or style of painting. Many museums have specially prepared Christmas cards, with appropriate reproductions, for sale at this time.

SMALL COLOR PRINTS, generally about 8x10 inches, but varying with the dimensions of the original, are usually sold for about 25¢. While such inexpensive reproductions cannot reproduce the colors and textures of the originals as faithfully as other available processes, the prints are generally good, and quite suitable for framing.

LARGE PRINTS, reproduced by special processes which best suit the style of the original, are sold either unframed or framed. Prices range from about $2 to $30 or more, depending on the size, the process used, and the frame, if any. The Museum of Modern Art in New York City, among others, has an excellent catalog of prints.

KODACHROME SLIDES, suitable for projection in an ordinary

projector, are available on many themes. The Walters Art Gallery in Baltimore offers an especially fine series of slides of illuminated manuscripts for 40¢ each in quantities of six or more, 45¢ in smaller lots. The Los Angeles County Museum, among others, offers a long list of art masterpieces on color slides.

PORTFOLIOS containing reproductions of water colors, drawings, sketches, and Chinese and Japanese prints, as well as oil paintings from the masters, are available in the $2 to $5 range. The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City has an interesting assortment of these.

SCULPTURE, executed in the same size and with the same finish as the original, is available from New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art, which publishes an excellent illustrated catalog. Prices range from $2 to $50. The National Gallery of Art in Washington, D. C. offers a number of Early Italian masterpiece reproductions at $3 to $27.50. The Walters Gallery in Baltimore has a large collection of cast reproductions, described in its catalog, selling for $2 to $17.50, and the Brooklyn Museum sells its series of gypsum cement casts of primitive masks and figures for prices ranging from $5 to $25.

FOR THE CHILDREN

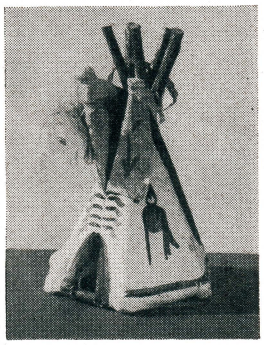
Some things sold by the museums are especially made for children; others are eminently well suited to their enjoyment.

GAMES. The Cleveland Museum of Art sells two "Games of Artists," one similar to "Authors," for 75¢, and the second similar to "Lotto," for 50¢. Both employ art masterpiece reproductions instead of the conventional symbols. The same museum also features several 52-piece jigsaw puzzles, at 75¢ each, based on reproductions of famous paintings.

ANIMAL FIGURES, made for use by adults as paperweights but quite suitable to start a child's collection, are available in great variety. The Denver Museum of Natural History has bronze figurines ranging from the tyrannosaurus to the cocker spaniel for 60¢ to $1.75. The Buffalo Museum of Science sells its animal paperweights for 40¢ to $1.25. The American Museum of Natural History in New York City sells a miniature set of prehistoric monsters for $1.75 each. Prehistoric and modern animals at the Los Angeles County Museum sell for only 60¢ each, and this museum features also two La Brea Tar Pit inhabitants, each at $1.25.

BOOKS. There is available a wide variety of books, pamphlets, and periodicals, some especially for children and some which both children and adults would enjoy. In the former class are the twelve pamphlets in the Encyclopedia Britannica World, Children Series, listed by the Denver Museum of Natural History at 50¢ each, illustrating the dress, living habits, and background of children of various lands. The Buffalo Museum sells a number of junior books including "Pictured Geographies" (75¢ each) and "New World Neighbors" series (50¢ each). Of interest to the young, too, is the *Junior Natural History* magazine, a monthly publication of the American Museum of Natural History in New York City, which has a subscription rate of $1.50 a year. Both these museums, along with many others, offer books and booklets on such diverse subjects as log cabins, dinosaurs and butterflies, at from a few cents to several dollars. The descriptive catalogs of both museums are excellent.

MISCELLANEOUS. In addition to the objects listed in the catalogs, some museums sell various interesting trinkets at their reception desks. Objects which CU found in casual looking included a replica of an Indian tepee (American Museum of Natural History, $1.25), arrowheads, pieces of meteorites, and minerals, and ancient coins. The Cleveland Museum of Natural History features craft products from Indian reservations.



Indian tepee ($1.25)

PRINTED MATERIALS

The range of printed materials is almost endless, and each museum has a long list of books and pamphlets from which you can make a selection. In the natural history museums, such subjects as Indians, early man, prehistoric beasts, gems, wild animals, flowers, ferns, insects, snakes, trees, and pottery predominate. The Denver Museum features a series of "how to" booklets, at 50¢ each, on such things as leatherwork, ropework, and animal trapping. The art museums have books and pamphlets covering practically every phase of the fine arts, and directed to the interests of the casual reader as well as the expert. Prices range from 10¢ for leaflets and catalogs to many dollars for beautifully illustrated books. A number of periodicals are available, outstanding among them being the *Natural History* magazine, a monthly publication of the American Museum of Natural History (NYC), costing $5 for a year's subscription. Museum membership, with 10% discount on books from the museum, accompanies the subscription.

Electric coffee

CU tested 17 percolators and 3 vacuum-return coffee makers for their ability to brew good

A coffee pot may be trim and glossy, automatic and foolproof; but if it doesn't make good coffee, by the morning after Christmas it will no longer be a welcome gift. On the other hand, a pot that can make consistently good coffee, and do it with a minimum of fuss and watching, would be an asset in any coffee-lover's home. It was to find the latter type of pot that CU undertook its tests of automatic electric coffee makers. Twenty such devices were tested, in the price range from about $8 to $37.50.

An automatic electric coffee maker is, by today's standards, the *ne plus ultra* in coffee pots. Though it doesn't measure the coffee or the water, save any time, or wash itself after it has been used, it will stop brewing after a preset time, and keep the brew piping hot. Whether this kind of convenience is worth the rather high cost to you as a user—or as a gift giver—you will have to decide.

Among automatic coffee makers on the market, two types are in general use: percolators and vacuum-return devices. There are many more percolators available, and of the 20 coffee makers tested, 17 were percolators. They are of two kinds: those having adjustable thermostats (and brewing times), so that the brew can be made weaker or stronger, for a given amount of water and coffee, and those having fixed thermostats, so that the brewing time is not adjustable.

One especially good coffee maker was disclosed by CU's test in each type: the *Sunbeam Coffeemaster* vacuum return ($37.50) and the *Farberware A-18* percolator ($22.95). The others, while adequate, were judged less good in several respects.

What are the factors affecting the quality of the coffee a pot will produce? You can make coffee stronger or weaker either by brewing the same amount for a longer or a shorter time, or by adding more or less coffee to a given amount of water for a given brewing period. But the two methods won't achieve the same kind of strength. Long brewing tends to produce a bitter brew, with much of the coffee's aroma going off into the air rather than into the coffee cup. However, some people like it that way. Some prefer a brew so weak that it is little more than mildly coffee-flavored hot water.

It is generally agreed that there is a qualitative difference between coffee made in a percolator and coffee made by the vacuum-return method (CU tested no electric drip pots), but again there is no general agreement on which is better. But there are some points which can be measured objectively, and on which there is agreement, both as regards the quality of the coffee and the convenience of the pot.

HOW MUCH COFFEE? The pots tested had maximum capacities of eight or nine coffee cups (five and a half ounces each). With the *Sunbeam*, it is possible to make as little as one cup of coffee at a time; all the others tested have to be filled at least to the four-cup level to produce satisfactory coffee.

HOW FAST? The fastest of all the coffee makers were the two vacuum-return models, which took 13 minutes, starting with cool water, to finish making a full pot of coffee. The percolators took from 15 to 23 minutes to produce a full pot of brew.

HOW AUTOMATIC? If it were true that everyone liked the same kind of coffee, it would be quite unnecessary to have coffee pots which can be set to brew for longer or shorter periods. But since there is no universally accepted optimum time, percolators having adjustable thermostats have the advantage of allowing the user to make the judgment of how much brewing he prefers. There is, of course, the compensating disadvantage that with the requirement to preset, the operation of the percolator becomes less automatic. With preset thermostats, the strength of the brew depends only on the amount of coffee put into the basket.

HOW CLEAR? Everyone seems to be agreed that a clear cup of coffee is preferable to a muddy one. Of the vacuum-return coffee makers tested, the *Sunbeam* produced coffee containing much less sediment than the *Cory*, which made a rather muddy brew. The filtering action of the *Cory* could be improved, however, by supplying it with a *Sunbeam* filter holder ($1) and cloth filters (55¢ for 12). Among the percolators, there was no appreciable difference in clarity of brew; all were judged satisfactory.

Ease of cleaning

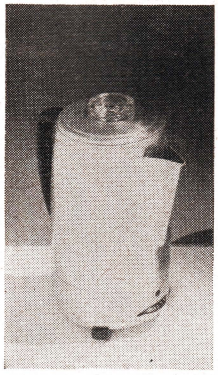
Cleaning any coffee pot is a nuisance, made the more unpleasant if the pot is so designed that there are hard-to-get-at places. By and large, the vacuum-return pots were the easiest to clean thoroughly, though washing the *Sunbeam's* cloth filters adds a cleaning chore. Where construction or design of particular pots presented special problems, these are noted in the ratings. There is, it should be noted, one cleaning problem common to all electric coffee makers:

Continued on page 524

makers

coffee and for their convenience

ALDEN DELUXE



FARBERWARE

FLAVORMATIC

RATINGS OF 20 ELECTRIC COFFEE MAKERS: Listed within groups, in order of estimated overall quality, on the basis of CU's tests. Measurements given in parentheses are for 5½-ounce coffee cups. All coffee makers tested are for 110 to 120 volt a-c use. Wattage figures are those supplied by the manufacturer. Prices are list as of October 1952. One sample of each was tested.

PERCOLATORS— with adjustable thermostats

ACCEPTABLE

¶ *All had indicator lights. Differences in overall quality between adjacent brands in the listing were small.*

■ **ALDEN DELUXE 9 CUP AUTOMATIC Cat. No. 385NR2795** (Alden, Chicago). $14.50 plus shipping. 500 watts. Aluminum. (5 to 9 cups.) Pump cannot be disassembled for cleaning; deep pump well and spout were judged hard to clean.

¶ *The following percolators appear to be identical with the* Alden DeLuxe *above, except as noted; same comments apply.*

■ **WARDS Cat. No. 86B2847L** (Montgomery Ward). $14.95 plus shipping. Has cast spout.

■ **SPIEGEL BREW-O-MATIC Cat. No. 78R3202** (Spiegel, Chicago). $15.95 plus shipping.

■ **DOMINION Model 1601** (Dominion Electric Corp., Mansfield, Ohio). $17.95.

■ **SEARS KENMORE FULLY AUTOMATIC Cat. No. 34G6744** (Sears-Roebuck). $13.95 plus shipping. Spout judged even harder to clean than that of the Alden Deluxe.

¶ *The first two of the following percolators were judged to be about the same in overall quality.*

■ **WARDS PERC-O-MATIC Cat. No. 86B2831L** (Montgomery Ward). $21.95 plus shipping. 400 watts. Chrome plated. (5 to 9 cups). Valve-type pump could be disassembled for cleaning. Deep pump well, spout and embossed bottom were judged hard to clean.

■ **CAMFIELD P-100** (Camfield Mfg. Co., Grand Haven, Mich.). $29.95. 400 watts. Chrome plated. (4 to 8 cups.) Valve-type pump could be disassembled for cleaning. Deep narrow pump well, embossed bottom, and spout were judged hard to clean.

■ **UNIVERSAL COFFEEMATIC EA 4428** (Landers, Frary & Clark, New Britain, Conn.). $29.95. 400 watts. Chrome plated. (4 to 8 cups.) Valve-type pump could be disassembled for cleaning. Deep pump well, spout and embossed bottom were judged hard to clean. Poor coffee basket; was deep and narrow.

PERCOLATORS— with preset thermostats

ACCEPTABLE

¶ *The following percolator was judged to be considerably better than other models in this group, and the best of all the percolators.*

■ **FARBERWARE Automatic Percolator A-18** (S.W. Farber, Inc., NYC). $22.95 in the East, $23.95 in the West. 550 watts. Chrome plated. (4 to 9 cups.) No fill marks. Relatively easy to clean, except for pump which cannot be disassembled. Broad pump well was judged easy to clean. Good coffee basket.

¶ *The following two percolators were judged to be equal in overall quality.*

■ **FLAVORMATIC 3278E** (West Bend Aluminum Co., West Bend, Wis.). $11.95. 400 watts. Aluminum. (6 to 9 cups.) Valveless pump was judged easy to clean.

■ **MIRRO-MATIC Model 9252M** (Aluminum Goods Mfg. Co., Manitowac, Wis.). $12.95. 600 watts. Aluminum. (4 to 8 cups.) Plug not recessed. Valveless pump was judged easy to clean. Long, curved spout was judged hard to clean.

The following percolator appears to be identical with the Mirro-Matic Model 9252M *above, and was not tested.*

HANDYHOT Model 1904 (Chicago Electric Mfg. Co., Chicago). $12.95.

¶ *The first four of the following percolators appear to be identical except for minor details, and the same comments apply to all of them.*

■ **SEARS KENMORE FULL AUTOMATIC 8 CUP Cat. No. 34G6728** (Sears-Roebuck). $8.75 plus shipping. 600 watts. Aluminum. (4 to 8 cups.) Plug not recessed. Valveless pump was judged easy to clean. Spout was judged hard to clean.

■ **WARD AUTOMATIC 8 CUP Cat. No. 86B2852L** (Montgomery Ward). $8.75 plus shipping.

■ **SPIEGEL 8 CUP Cat. No. 78R3201** (Spiegel, Chicago). $8.75 plus shipping.

■ **ALDEN AUTOMATIC 9 CUP Cat. No. 385NR2798** (Alden, Chicago). $9.98 plus shipping. Actual capacity 8 cups.

■ **EMPIRE BRAND Cat. No. 1902** (Metal Ware Corp., Two Rivers, Wis.). $7.89. 440 watts. Aluminum. (4 to 8 cups.) Plug was only partially shielded. Valveless pump was judged easy to clean. Spout was judged fairly hard to clean.

■ **ALDENS THRIFT AUTOMATIC Cat. No. 385NR2796** (Alden, Chicago). $7.90 plus shipping. Appeared to be the same as the *Empire*, above.

VACUUM-RETURN BREWERS

ACCEPTABLE

■ **SUNBEAM COFFEEMASTER Model C30A** (Sunbeam Corp., Chicago). $37.50. 1000 watts. Chrome plated. (1 to 8 cups.) Relatively easy to clean, except for cloth filter. Replacement filters, 12 for 55¢. Gasket ($1.25) between upper and lower bowls easily replaced. Also available with glass upper bowl as *Model C30AB*, $32.50.

■ **CORY Model ACB** (Cory Corp., Chicago). $34.95. 800 watts. Chrome plated. (4 to 8 cups.) Relatively easy to clean. Sediment in the brew was higher than in any other coffee maker tested, when used with glass filter rod. Filter rod need not be replaced unless broken; a replacement costs 60¢. Gasket (50¢) between upper and lower bowls is easily replaced. This model has been discontinued, but may still be available in some stores. Also available in stainless steel as *Model ACB-2*, $37.50.

■ **CORALUME Model EAB** (Cory Corp.). $28.95. 800 watts. Aluminum. Appears to be the same except for material as above; same comments apply.

COFFEE MAKERS continued from page 522

because of the electric element, they can't just be dumped into the dishpan and washed.

Components

● Baskets of the percolators, which hold the coffee grounds, should be low and wide rather than tall and narrow, so that the water won't dam up and flow over the sides of the basket. The basket should be roomy enough to hold all the coffee needed for a full pot in about half the space provided, so that there will be enough room for the grounds to expand when they are wetted.

● Spouts should be so designed that coffee can be poured easily without dribbling. While all those tested were satisfactory in this particular, it was found that long, curved spouts tended to pour slowly, and some of the coffee might spill out around the edges of the lid in the course of rapid pouring.

● Handles on all of the coffee makers tested were satisfactory.

● Level markings, to indicate how much water should be put into the pot for the desired number of cups of coffee, are a convenience present on many pots.

● Electrical connections. On all the coffee makers tested, the electric cords are detachable, and there are two prongs on the pot into which the cord socket fits. These prongs were exposed on some of the pots, more or less covered on others. In the judgment of CU's engineers, such current-carrying prongs should be recessed.

How CU tested

CU's tests included checks on clarity of brew, capacity range, control range if any, ease of assembly, cleaning and disassembly, and relative freedom from shock and burn hazard and an operating run equivalent to a year's daily use, which all passed successfully. All were judged relatively free of shock hazard and burn hazard.

Cameras, accessories, and other photographic supplies that make good gifts for the amateur

gifts for photographers

Whether you want to spend only a few dollars or a hundred dollars or more, you will find items among the photographic gift suggestions which follow that any amateur photographer will be glad to own. For convenience, the list has been broken down into five categories: equipment (primary photographic tools, such as cameras and enlargers); accessories for picture-taking or "shooting"; accessories for picture making; materials and supplies (film, paper, lamps, etc.); and photographic literature, which this year offers an attractively varied choice. Except possibly for the books, prices stated are often "about" what the dealer will ask; sometimes a little shopping around will be worth your while.

PHOTOGRAPHIC EQUIPMENT

DUAFLEX II box-type camera, with large reflecting-finder viewing lens and collapsible metal hood. Taking lens is the Kodar f/8. Takes twelve pictures on 620 roll film. Flash-synchronized. $21.30.

BOWER-X, MODEL II FOLDING CAMERA. Adjustable for two picture sizes, eight pictures, 2¼x3¼ inches, or twelve pictures, 2¼x2¼ inches on 120 film, this German-made folding camera has a Schneider Radionar f/4.5 lens. With Vario shutter, speeds to 1/200th second; $36.50; with Prontor S shutter to 1/250th and built-in self timer, $43.50; with Prontor SV MX flash-synchronized, $47.50.

BABY BROWNIE SPECIAL BOX TYPE CAMERA. Takes eight pictures, 1⅝x2½ inches, on 127 roll. "Instantaneous" only. A good gift for a child. $2.85.

BEACON II. Coated f/11, fixed-focus lens in collapsible mount takes 16 pictures, 1¼x1⅝ inches on 127 roll. "Instantaneous" only. Flash synchronized. $9.95.

KODAK SIGNET CAMERA. This compact 35mm miniature—4½x2½x3 inches—is one of the most popular in the field. It has a coated Ektar 44mm f/3.5 lens, Synchro 300 shutter, with four speeds from 1/25th to 1/300th, built-in rangefinder and viewfinder in one window; built-in flash synchronization at all speeds; automatic film stop, film counter, double exposure prevention. $92.50.

RICOHFLEX TWIN-LENS REFLEX CAMERA. A low-priced but efficient twin-lens reflex camera made in Japan. Uses No. 120 roll film for twelve pictures, 2¼x2¼ inches, equipped with coupled 80mm f/3.5 lenses, three shutter speeds, 1/25th, 1/50th, 1/100th, plus bulb; flash-synchronized; self-erecting viewfinder hood. With Ever-ready case, $50.45. Twin-lens reflex cameras are available in a

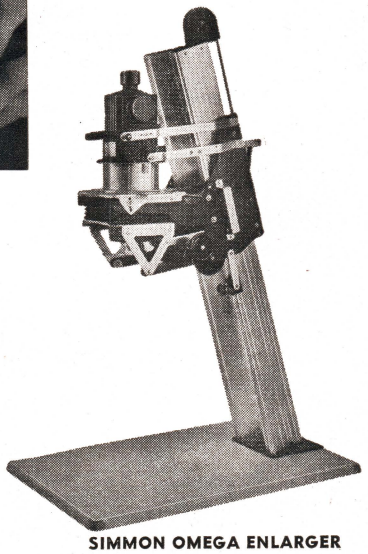
variety of makes. The best in this field are the $140 *Rolleicord III* and the $265 *Automatic Rolleiflex.*

STEREO-REALIST STEREOSCOPIC CAMERA. This popular stereo camera is responsible for the revived interest in stereo. It has matched coated 35mm f/3.5 lenses; direct-vision center finder; flash-synchronized twin shutters, with speeds to 1/150th; split-image rangefinder coupled to focusing system; takes 29 stereo pairs on 36-exposure roll of 35mm film; 16 on a 20-exposure roll. $159. *Realist Stereo Viewer,* adjustable, $19.75; *Handi-Viewer,* focusing adjustment only, $9.50.

VIEW-MASTER STEREOSCOPE OUTFIT. An inexpensive stereo viewing system for children (but adults enjoy it too). The outfit consists of viewer, a lighting unit that attaches to the back of the viewer, batteries, a plastic library box and choice of any three *View-Master* reels, $6.75. Each reel contains seven pairs of full-color stereoscopic pictures. A 300-reel library to choose from. Three reels for $1.

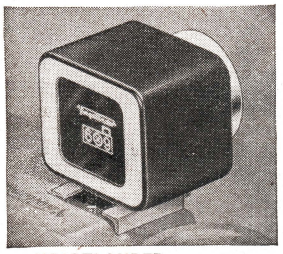
SIMMON OMEGA B-4 ENLARGER. This is a low-priced version of a famous enlarger. It uses a double condenser system with a 75-watt lamp source. For a-c only. For negatives from 35mm to 2¼x3¼ inches. The enlarger head is balanced on rigid girder supports that incline forward. Focusing is manual. Rotating negative carrier. Laminated baseboard 18x26 inches. Without lens, $116.08. Lenses, $15 to $30.

STEREO-REALIST CAMERA

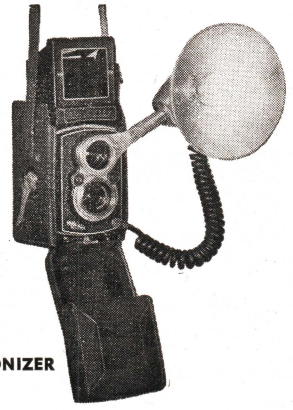


SIMMON OMEGA ENLARGER

KODAK AUTO-RELEASE



VOIGTLANDER KONTUR VIEWFINDER



FLASHFLEX SYNCHRONIZER

ACCESSORIES FOR PICTURE-TAKING

KODAK AUTO-RELEASE. This self-timer, which permits the photographer to get into the picture too, attaches to the camera and automatically trips the shutter about ten seconds after it has been set. $4.85.

CAMERA CARRYING BAGS. "Gadget bags" for protection and storage of camera, accessories and supplies are available in wide variety and at prices ranging from about $2 or $3 for small plastic units to elaborate combination leather cases like the *Omnica,* which are designed for specific cameras and sell for $40 to $60.

FILTER CASE (TIFFEN SELECT-A-FILTER SAFE). A transparent plastic filter case with a novel, push-button, filter selector. The case holds six filters, lens hood, and adapter ring. For Series V attachments, $2.50; for Series VI, $2.75.

FLASHFLEX SYNCHRONIZER FOR ROLLEIFLEX. New battery-capacitor type flashgun that attaches to the bayonet lens mount of the Rolleiflex or Rolleicord cameras like a filter or other accessory. Weighs less than seven ounces and can be carried in one's pocket. $21.25.

HUGO MEYER POCKET RANGEFINDER. This accessory focusing device can be used with any camera. Its two-color image principle permits quick reading, in either feet or meters. It can be hand-held or it can be attached to the camera by means of an adapter. With case, $10.50.

VOIGTLANDER KONTUR SPORTSFINDER VIEWFINDER. This device allows the photographer to view the subject with both eyes open. It is designed to fit on any 35mm, 2¼x2¼ or 2¼x3¼ camera. It is useful in following sports and action subjects. Framing is simplified by four solid white lines that embrace the field seen by the camera. Luminous spot marks the center of the field. $8.50.

ACCESSORIES FOR PICTURE-MAKING

CHANGING BAG. A "portable darkroom" bag of black sateen with zippered sleeves for the operator's arms. A changing bag permits film to be loaded and unloaded where no darkroom is available. The smallest bag is 18x18 inches, about $6; a 30x32-inch bag is about $10.

BRUMBERGER'S PHOTO-PAPER SAFETY CHEST. A light-tight unit for storing paper. Door closes automatically after each use. Seven storage compartments. Sheet steel construction. For 8x10 and 5x7 paper, $10.95; for sheets up to 11x14, $19.95.

FEDCO FOCUS-RITE FOR ENLARGING. An excellent device to help in focusing negatives projected on the enlarging easel. $2.50.

TIME-O-LITE FOOTSWITCH, MODEL FS-30. Snap-action footswitch for enlarger or printer and safelight. When the operator steps on the pedal, the enlarger or printer light goes on, and the safelight goes off. For a-c only, $13.50.

KODACRAFT PRINTING KITS. For the rank beginner, who wants only to make contact prints, a set is offered at $4.95, including everything he needs to get started; to develop film as well as print, the *Kodacraft Photo-Lab Outfit No. 612* at $8.75. The *Kodacraft Advanced Photo-Lab No. 613,* at $14.10, includes a metal contact printer as well as the basic items.

KODAK TWO-WAY SAFELAMP. A two-sided, triangular-shaped, darkroom safelight unit which takes two safelight filters, one on each side. It can be used to illuminate a small area or for general darkroom lighting. With one 3¼x4¾-inch *OA Safelight Filter* and a 15-watt lamp, $4.50.

ENVOY BAND TANK. A little developer goes a long way with this British-made developing tank. Film is wound on cellulose acetate aprons instead of reels and takes 4 ounces of developer for 35mm film strip; 6½ ounces for 120 and 620. $5.

Continued on next page

NIKOR STAINLESS STEEL TANKS. These have been easily the best tanks on the market for years and well worth the extra cost compared to cheaper models. Made of corrosion-resistant stainless steel, they are easy to load or unload, whether film is wet or dry. For all roll film sizes from 35mm, single and multiple-reel tanks, from $7.50. A special tank for developing up to 12 sheets of 2½x3½ or 2¼x3¼ sheet film sells for $8.75.

PHOTOGRAPHIC MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES

Photographic supplies make good gifts if the donor knows the user's needs and desires. Such information should not be too difficult to get, and if the film or paper happens to be something the recipient has always wanted but could not afford, so much the better. The amateur with a limited budget will certainly be pleased by such a Christmas windfall as two or three rolls of *Kodachrome* film—still, movie or stereo; the flash fan could use a half case or so of the proper size flash lamps; the amateur who prints his own pictures will appreciate a box of photographic paper.

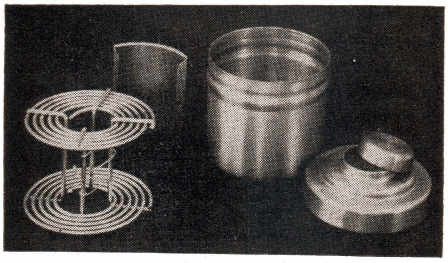
A gift of color film is almost certain to please. With the recent introduction of *Stereo-Kodachrome*, the price of which includes both Kodak processing and mounting for stereo-viewing, a good gift for the stereo fan is easy to select. The price is $4.75 a roll (in daylight type only for the present) for 20 stereo pairs.

Other color film sizes are the regular 35mm and bantam-sizes in both *Kodachrome* and *Ansco Color*. The latter is sold only in bantam ($1) and Memo and 20-exposure rolls at about $2.25. This price does not include processing. *Kodachrome* is available in bantam size (8 pictures, a little larger than 35mm) at $1.88, in 20- and 36-exposure rolls at $3.50 and $5.50, respectively, which includes processing. For users of *No. 120* or *No. 620* cameras, there is a choice of *Ektachrome*, *Ansco Color* or *Kodacolor*. *Ektachrome* (12 exposures 2¼x2¼ inches) is $1.80 a roll, *Ansco Color* (9 exposures, same size) about $1, processing not included with either. *Kodacolor*, which is available in the bantam size, *No. 127*, *No. 120*, *No. 620*, *No. 116* and *No. 616*, at prices ranging from about $1.60 to about $2.50, depending on the film size, includes processing by Kodak to a negative; color prints from these negatives are about 40¢ each. *Ektachrome* and *Ansco Color* are also marketed in sheet film sizes at varying prices. When ordering color film, always stipulate whether you want daylight or artificial-light type. Black-and-white film comes in sizes for all amateur cameras, of course. A package of 25 rolls makes a fine gift.

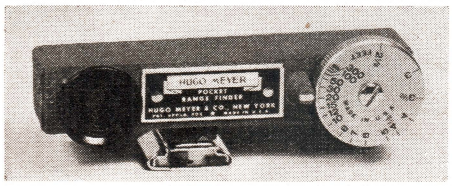
For the color movie fan, the gift shopper has a choice of *Kodachrome* or *Ansco Color*, in 8mm or 16mm, roll or magazine, daylight or artificial-light type (find out which can be used). *Ansco* and *Kodachrome* 8mm comes in 25-foot magazines at a little under $5 each, processing included. *Kodachrome* in 8mm rolls is about $4. *Kodachrome* and *Ansco Color*, 16mm, in 50-foot rolls are about $6 each, in 50-foot magazines about $7 each, in 100-foot rolls about $11 each.

The most popular flash lamps are the *General Electric SM* and *No. 5* and the *Superflash SF* and *No. 25*. These so-called midget lamps cost about $7 for a half case (60 lamps), or about $12 for the full 120-lamp case. For stocking gifts, "sleeves" of 8 or 10 flash lamps at a little over a dollar a sleeve are available. For amateurs who like to use flood lights for portraits, baby pictures, etc., indoors, a couple of *RFL No. 2* lamps for still pictures, *RSP No. 2* lamps for movies, will come to about $2.50 for a pair. This type lamp has a "built-in" reflector and may be used in ordinary household floor or table light stands.

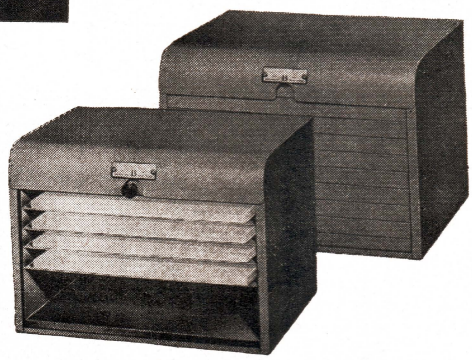
A package of 25 sheets or a box of 100 sheets of photographic enlarging paper are possibilities for the darkroom worker. Prices vary with the size, type, and the quantity of paper, and whether single-weight or double. A package of 5x7-inch paper, for example, will be about a dollar or less;



NIKOR DEVELOPING TANK



MEYER POCKET RANGEFINDER



BRUMBERGER'S PHOTO-PAPER SAFETY CHEST

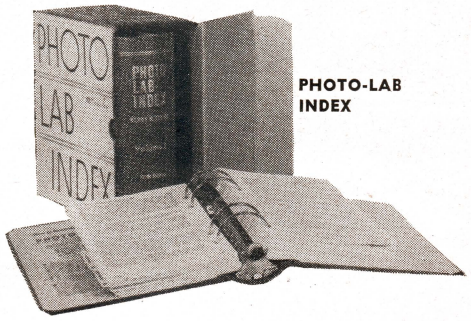
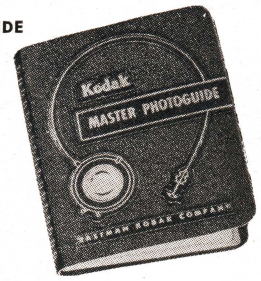
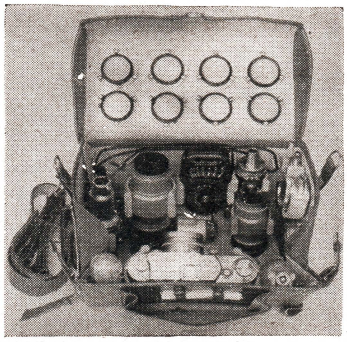


PHOTO-LAB INDEX

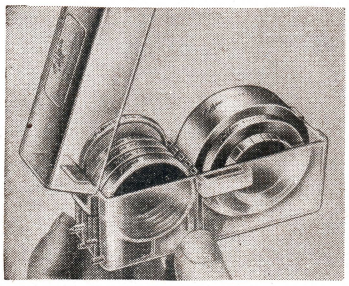
PHOTOGRAPHIC SUPPLIES

KODAK MASTER PHOTOGUIDE

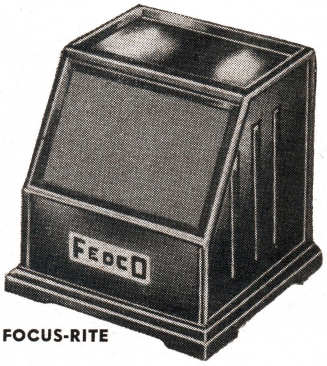




OMNICA CARRYING CASE



TIFFEN
SELECT-A-FILTER CASE



FEDCO FOCUS-RITE

a 100-sheet box, $2 to $4. The 8x10-inch size will be about $2 for the package, about $5 to $8 for the 100-sheet box. A very special paper is *Gevaert Gevaluxe,* which costs about $4 a dozen sheets of 8x10, about $7 a dozen for the 11x14 size. This paper has a unique velvety surface and yields excellent prints; it should be given only to the advanced worker, however, since it requires special handling. In the matter of paper generally, the donor would do well to find out the user's preferences.

PHOTOGRAPHIC LITERATURE

The book gift of the year among serious-minded photographers undoubtedly will be "The Decisive Moment," the 11x14½-inch volume of 126 fine reproductions of Henri Cartier-Bresson's photographs. It is published by Simon & Schuster at $12.50, and printed by gravure. The book jacket was designed by Henri Matisse. Another excellent gift on the same level is "Words and Pictures, an Introduction to Photojournalism" (Harper & Brothers, $5) by Wilson Hicks, consulting picture editor and former executive editor of *Life.* "U. S. Camera Annual 1953" (U. S. Camera Publishing Co., $6.95), the famous yearly collection that has become an American institution, is particularly fine this year. "Photography Annual 1953" (Ziff-Davis Publishing Co., $1, paper covered), which is far better than last year's, makes an inexpensive companion annual. A $3 hard-cover edition is published by Crown Publishers.

Topping the know-how list of desirable books for beginners and advanced amateurs are the twin volumes by Andreas Feininger, famous Life photographer. "Feininger on Photography" (Crown Publishers, $6.95), mainly for beginners, is a sumptuous, meaty volume on "the technique and art of making a photograph." "Advanced Photography," the companion volume (Prentice-Hall, $7.50), discusses "methods and conclusions" for the more experienced worker.

"Better Color Movies" by Fred Bond (Camera Craft Publishing Co., $5) is a well-illustrated and useful guide for the beginner as well as the more or less advanced amateur. "How to Develop, Print and Enlarge Your Own Pictures" (McGraw-Hill Book Co., $3.75), the cooperative effort of Jack O. Flynn, Albert J. Rosenberg and Alan Kellock, is literally a step-by-step picture course in darkroom fundamentals—next best to having a teacher at one's elbow. Arthur Lockett's "Camera Lenses" (Pitman Publishing Co., $2.50) is a 27-year-old English classic on lens lore and optical accessories, mainly for beginners, which appeared this year in its third edition completely revised and brought up to date by H. W. Lee. For the amateur eager to make his hobby pay, "How to Make Money With Your Camera" (McGraw-Hill, $3.50) by Harrison Forman will be welcome.

The technically minded will appreciate America's best data book, the "Photo-Lab Index" (Morgan & Lester) which in its new Twelfth Lifetime Edition is published in two volumes in silk-screened slip case at $17.95. This loose-leaf technical reference work contains 24 sections on various phases of photography and an exhaustive alphabetical index. The "Kodak Reference Handbook" for general photography and the "Kodak Color Handbook" for the color photographer, each at $4, are ring-binder volumes to which additions are made from time to time. Attractive, informative and convenient, they are in effect up-to-date working manuals. Kodak also has two handy pocket-size ring-bound guides of practical data, with dial calculators, for the still or movie photographer—the "Master Photoguide" and "Cine Photoguide," respectively—at $1.75 each.

Face Powders

Forty-six brands were tested and rated, and over 250 shades were classified by color

CU's examination of 46 brands of face powder indicates that the woman who buys and uses an expensive brand will not necessarily be better made up than the woman who chooses her cosmetics at a dime store counter. *Lady Esther* powder which, at 66¢ for a 2.7 ounce container, costs 24.4¢ per ounce was considered by CU's cosmetics consultant to be preferable to *Chanel No. 5,* which was over four times as expensive. The most expensive face powder in CU's tests was *Fleurs de Rocaille* at $2 per ounce; it was rated Very Good, but was judged no better in quality than *Lady Esther* or other inexpensive brands so rated.

In CU's survey, each brand was examined for *spread* (ease and smoothness of application), *adherence* (the comparative lasting quality of the powder make-up), *covering power* (the powder's ability to give a uniform tint to the skin area, and to control minor blemishes), *finish* (the quality in a powder which smooths the texture of the skin surface), and *absorbency* (which determines a face powder's ability to conceal moist or oily skin). Finally, CU's cosmetics consultant judged the strength and pleasantness of each brand's *fragrance.* All 46 brands of face powders in CU's tests were judged to be Acceptable.

Only one color of each brand was tested fully, since it is the practice of manufacturers to employ the same basic formula for all except possibly the very dark shades.

Many powders are packaged in small "trial" sizes, as well as in larger packages, for sale in variety stores. The powder is the same in the different package sizes. The small size is useful, particularly if you want to experiment with brands or shades, or if you like to have several shades or types for different uses.

CU's consultant classified several different colors (generally six) in each of the 46 brands tested. There was little if any relationship between a manufacturer's trade name for a shade and its actual tint. Thus *Crackerjack, Windsor, Irish Rose,* and *Sum'r Tan* all turned out to be Light Peach. Even such relatively familiar names as *Rachel* and *Brunette* are entirely different shades in different brands.

CU has attempted to simplify the designations of the different shades through the use of a color chart. All face powders tested were classified by the consultant into standard color groupings numbered from 1 ("light yellow") through 11 ("tan"). The numbers following the color names in the ratings refer to this list. Thus, "*Brunette* 7" in a rating means that the shade called *Brunette* in that particular brand is actually "7, light peach." Each color designation of necessity covers a range of gradations, and must be considered approximate rather than exact.

The examinations and overall judgments of the powders were made by a cosmetics consultant with many years' experience in the field. Most of the judgments were of necessity subjective, and represent the consultant's opinions based on his experience, rather than hard and fast measurements. The expert's ratings can help guide the consumer in deciding which brands to try, but the products tried must still stand the test of individual taste.

RATINGS OF 46 BRANDS OF FACE POWDER:

Listed in order of increasing cost per ounce (figure in parentheses) within each group. Differences of quality between brands within a group were small. The shade given full examination is the first one listed for each brand. Italicized words are manufacturers' names for the shades; the number which follows the color name refers to CU's color classification (see page 529). Prices include 20% Federal tax.

ACCEPTABLE

Very Good

■ **LADY ESTHER** (Lady Esther, Ltd., Chicago). 66¢ for 2.7 oz. (24.4¢). *Brunette* 7; *Bridal Pink* 7; *Natural* 4; *Rachel* 7; *Rose Brunette* 8; *Perfect Tan* 9.

■ **WESTMORE** (House of Westmore, Inc., Hollywood). 71¢ for 2¾ oz. (25.7¢). *Sunset Tan* 11; *Continental* 1; *Rachelle* 1; *Nut Brown* 11; *Irish Rose* 7.

■ **CASHMERE BOUQUET** (Colgate-Palmolive-Peet Co., Jersey City, N. J.). 35¢ for 1 1/5 oz. (29¢). *Rachel No. 2,* 2; *Brunette* 8; *Natural* 8; *Rose Tan* 9; *Rachel No. 1,* 1; *Nut Brown* 11.

■ **JERGENS** (Jergens, Cincinnati). 30¢ for 1 oz. (30¢). *Pink Frosting* 7; *Rachel* 1; *Naturelle* 7; *Brunette* 7; *Southern Rose* 8; *Flesh* 4.

■ **MAX FACTOR** (Max Factor & Co., Hollywood). $1.32 for 3¾ oz. (35.2¢). *Sum'r Tan* 7; *Brunette* 1; *Olive* 7; *Ochre* 2; *Natural-Rose* 7; *Amber-Rose* 7.

■ **WOODBURY** (Woodbury, Cincinnati). 36¢ for 1 oz. (36¢). *Coquette* 11; *Fiesta* 7; *Natural* 7; *Brunette* 4; *Nut Brown* 11; *Rachel* 1.

■ **HARRIET HUBBARD AYER LUXURIA** (Harriet Hubbard Ayer, NYC). $1.20 for 3 oz. (40¢). *Peach* 2; *Rose Beige* 2; *Rosayer* 5; *Ayerblonde* 7; *Ayerbrunette* 2; *Rachel* 1.

■ **MERLE NORMAN** (Merle Norman Cosmetics, Santa Monica, Calif.). $1.20 for 3 oz. (40¢). *Pastel* 7; *Moreno* 2; *Dawn Rose* 7; *Roselure* 7; *Peach Bloom* 4; *Flesh* 1.

■ **REVLON** (Revlon Prod. Corp., NYC). $1.20 for 3 oz. (40¢). *Fatal Apple* 7; *Windsor* 7; *Rose Future* 7; *Country Cream* 3; *Russian Sable* 11; *Tortoise Shell* 11.

■ **MIDNIGHT TUSSY** (Lehn & Fink Prod. Corp., Bloomfield, N. J.). $1.20 for 2¾ oz. (43.7¢). *Midnight Mauve* 10; *Radiant Pink* 7; *Rose Beige* 7; *Custom Blend* 7; *Beige Rachel* 1; *Blush Rachel* 7.

■ **ALMAY** (Almay, Div. of Schieffelin & Co., NYC). $1.32 for 3 oz. (44¢). *Cream Rose* 7; *Sherry* 5; *Sherry Rose* 10; *Honey* 4; *Honey Rose* 9; *Cream* 1.

■ **EVENING IN PARIS** (Bourjois, NYC). $1.20 for 2⅝ oz. (45.7¢). *Beige* 3; *Sun Blush* 8; *Parisian Tan* 10; *Naturelle* 4; *Rachelle No. 2*, 2; *Rose Indian* 8.

■ **LUCIEN LELONG** (Lucien Lelong, NYC). $1.50 for 3 oz. (50¢). *Peche* 7; *Havoc* 2; *Mauve Rose* 7; *Dianthus* 8; *Sirocco* 9; *Tempest* 7.

■ **DOROTHY GRAY PORTRAIT** (Dorothy Gray, Ltd., NYC). $1.50 for 2¾ oz. (54.5¢). *Suntone* 8; *Glo Rachel* 7; *Flamingo* 8; *Tawny Rachel* 1; *Rachel* 1; *Natural* 7.

■ **BARBARA GOULD** (Barbara Gould, NYC). $1.50 for 2½ oz. (60¢). *Rose Indian* 8; *Currant Rose* 4; *Lover's Knot* 11; *Moonstruck* 9; *Naturelle* 7; *Mandarin Tan* 8.

■ **DU BARRY** (Richard Hudnut, NYC). $1.20 for 2 oz. (60¢). *Rose Beige* 8; *Blush Tan* 9; *Rachel No. 2*, 9; *Tropical* 9; *Special Rachel* 9; *Petal Pink* 4.

■ **SHOCKING DE SCHIAPARELLI** (Parfums Schiaparelli, Inc., NYC). $1.80 for 3 oz. (60¢). *Paris Pink* 7; *Passiflora* 8; *Azalea* 7; *So Sweet* 7; *Camelia* 7; *Rose* 7.

■ **SIGNATURE** (Luzier's, Inc., Kansas City, Mo.). $2.40 for 4 oz. (60¢). *T-0205*, 7; *T-0203*, 7; *T-0221*, 7; *T-0214*, 7; *T-0216*, 7; *T-0210*, 8.

■ **AIR SPUN** (Coty, NYC). $1.50 for 2.29 oz. (65.5¢). *Soleil D'Or* 2, minty odor not considered agreeable by consultant; *Cotytan* 3; *Vibrant* 9; *Tamale* 9; *Rachel No. 2*, 2; *Gitane* 3.

■ **BEAUTY COUNSELOR** (Beauty Counselors, Inc., Grosse Pointe, Mich.). $1.32 for 2 oz. (66¢). *Fair Rose* 1; *Sun Rose* 7; *Deep Peach* 7; *Medium Peach* 1; *Medium Rose* 8; *Fair Peach* 2.

■ **CARA NOME** (Cara Nome, Boston). $1.32 for 2 oz. (66¢). *Rachelle Olive* 7; *Rachelle Light* 1; *Rachelle Dark* 8; *Peach* 7; *Tan Ray* 8; *Castanet* 10.

■ **JOHN ROBERT POWERS** (John Robert Powers Prod. Co., NYC). $1.80 for 2½ oz. (72¢). Colors blended in store for customer. Packed in glass jar with metal screw cap.

■ **SILK-SCREEN** (Helena Rubinstein, Inc., NYC). $2.40 for 3¼ oz. (73.8¢). *Command Performance* 2. Packed in transparent plastic container. *Rose Mauve* 7; *Mauresque* 7; *Peach Bloom* 7; *Crackerjack* 7; *Bronze Me* 8.

■ **CHARLES OF THE RITZ HAND BLENDED** (Charles of the Ritz, NYC). $2.40 for 3 oz. (80¢). Colors blended in store for customer.

■ **TABU TRAVELER** (Dana Perfumes, NYC). $1.20 for 1½ oz. (80¢). *Singapore (Medium)* 3. Fragrance was considered too strong by consultant. Package constructed to keep powder from sifting or spilling. *Nassau (Bronze)* 11; *Havana (Dark)* 2; *Argentine (Extra Dark)* 11; *Barcelona (Flesh)* 8; *Rio (Pink Beige)* 8.

■ **CHANTILLY** (Houbigant, NYC). $3 for 3⅝ oz. (82.8¢). *Peche Soleil* 7; *Sienna* 8; *Champagne Rosee* 7; *Peche* 7; *Rachel* 1.

■ **DERMETICS** (Dermetics, Inc., NYC). $1.50 for 1½ oz. ($1). *Light Suntan* 2. Packed in glass bottles with plastic shaker top and screw cap. *Peach Tone* 8; *Brunette* 7; *Tropic* 9; *Radiance* 5; *Glotan* 9.

■ **GERMAINE MONTEIL** (Germaine Monteil Cosmetiques Corp., NYC). $2.10 for 2 oz. ($1.05). *Beige* 2; *Suntan* 3; *Ivory* 1; *Coral* 7; *Sunglow* 8; *Muted Rose* 7.

■ **FLEURS DE ROCAILLE** (Parfums Caron, Paris). $6 for 3 oz. ($2). *Ivoire Nacre* 7; *Mauresque* 3; *Ivoire Rose* 4.

Good

■ **IRRESISTIBLE AIR-WHIPT** (Irresistible, Inc., NYC). 35¢ for 3⅓ oz. (10.4¢). *Dark Skintone* 11; *Flesh* 4; *Rachel* 1; *Skintone* 8; *Nut Brown* 11.

■ **ELIZABETH POST** (Elizabeth Post, NYC). 35¢ for 2¾ oz. (12.7¢). *Gay Rose* 11; *Rose Brunette* 7; *Brunette* 7; *Rose Rachel* 7; *Wild Cherry* 7; *Tropicana* 9.

■ **MACY'S BUDGET BOX** (R. H. Macy & Co., NYC). 49¢ for 3¼ oz. (15.1¢). *Cinnamon* 11; *Blush* 8; *Pongee* 11; *Pink Sand* 7; *Cocorose* 8.

■ **EMILY ROGERS FASHIONTONE** (Emily Rogers, NYC). 47¢ for 3 oz. (15.6¢). *Peach Brunette* 7; *Rachel* 1; *Copper* 9; *Sun Tan* 10; *Natural* 4.

■ **PRETTY AS A PICTURE** (Prince Matchabelli, NYC). $1.20 for 3½ oz. (34.3¢). *Rachel* 1; *Tawny* 7; *Naturelle* 7; *Dusty Rose* 5; *Rose Rachel* 8; *Rose* 9.

■ **PARK & TILFORD** (Park & Tilford, NYC). 35¢ for 1 oz. (35¢). *Rachel* 7; *Light Nut Brown* 3; *Dark Nut Brown* 11; *Nut Brown* 11; *Rose Brunette* 9; *Pink Lady* 6.

■ **CHIFFON** (Primrose House, NYC). $1.20 for 2.82 oz. (42.6¢). *Brunette* 7; *Rose Petal* 8; *Beige* 1; *Natural* 7; *Special Rachel* 7; *Witchery* 2.

■ **AVON** (Avon Prod., Inc., NYC). $1.14 for 2½ oz. (45.6¢). *Paris Tan* 8; *Golden Rachel* 7; *Dusk Rose* 7; *Pink Rose* 8; *Rachel* 1; *Rose Rachel* 7.

■ **YARDLEY ENGLISH COMPLEXION** (Yardley, NYC). $1.32 for 2¼ oz. (58.7¢). *Golden Rachel* 2; *Honey Glow* 7; *English Peach* 7; *Rose Tan* 8; *English Cameo* 7; *Pink Pearl* 7.

■ **KARESS** (Bourgois, NYC). $2.40 for 3⅞ oz. (61.9¢). *Rose Indian* 7; *Rachel* 1; *Rachel No. 2*, 7; *Natural* 7.

■ **SATINY POUDRE** (Frances Denny, Philadelphia). $2.40 for 3.3 oz. (72.7¢). *Russet* 2; *Rose Rachel* 9; *Soft Blend* 7; *Rose Petal* 7; *Golden Honey* 9; *Rosita* 8.

■ **SHEER BEAUTY** (Lentheric, NYC). $1.80 for 2 oz. (90¢). *Rose Rachel* 7; *Rachel* 1; *Rose Tan* 8; *Dusty Rose* 7; *Sunplexion* 9; *French Nude* 2.

Fair

■ **POND'S DREAMFLOWER SHEER GAUGE** (Pond's Extract Co., NYC). 35¢ for 1 1/10 oz. (31.6¢). *Pink Tulle* 7; *Peach* 7; *Brunette* 2; *Mocha* 4; *Rachel* 1; *Rich Rachel* 2.

■ **TANGEE** (George W. Luft Co., NYC). 12¢ for 0.38 oz. (31.6¢). *Rachel* 2; *Light Rachel* 1; *Peach* 7; *Tan* 9; *Dark Rachel* 8; *Natural* 4.

■ **DAGGETT & RAMSDELL PERFECT** (Daggett & Ramsdell, NYC). $1.20 for 3¼ oz. (37¢). *Rose Brunette* 8; *Brunette* 3; *Rachel* 2; *Peach* 8; *Naturelle* 8; *Manhattan Dusk* 11.

■ **POUDRE D'ILLUSION** (Elizabeth Arden, NYC). $2.40 for 2 15/16 oz. (81.7¢). *Mat Fonce* 1; *Rose Beige* 9; *Rose Rachel* 8; *Special Mat Fonce* 7; *Dark Rosetta* 9; *Renoir Pink* 7.

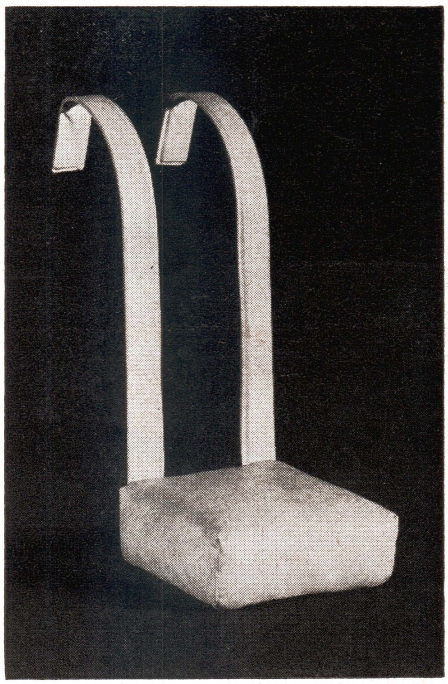
■ **CHANEL NO. 5** (Chanel, Inc., NYC). $3 for 2¾ oz. ($1.09). *Ochre No. 1*, 2; *Dusky* 8; *Chanel Pink* 5; *Ochre No. 2*, 9; *Southern Tan* 9; *Ivory No. 2*, 2.

COLOR CLASSIFICATION CHART

1	light, yellow tone	*A warm, ochre tint usually known as rachel. It may vary from clear ochres to muted ochres with red and brown undertones.*
2	medium, yellow tone	
3	deep, yellow tone	
4	light, pink tone	*These shades may range from a Dresden-doll pink to warm glowing pinks with undertones of orange.*
5	medium, pink tone	
6	deep, pink tone	
7	light, peach tone	*A discreet blending of pinks and ochres, ranging from muted tones to glowing orange.*
8	medium, peach tone	
9	deep, peach tone	
10	muted, rose tone	*Special evening make-up, with accents of fuchsia and purple.*
11	tan	*"Sun tan" shades ranging from light to dark.*

auto ACCESSORY gifts

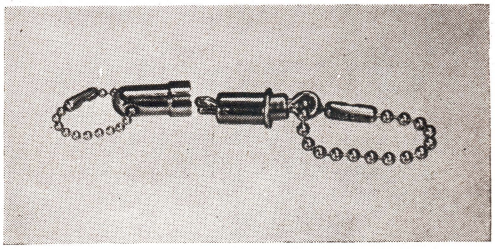
No matter how luxurious a car may be, it still lacks some of the comforts of home. By judicious selection from the hundreds of accessories available to add to comfort or safety you can find good Christmas gifts. Here are a few samples:



Only the more expensive cars have center arm rests, allowing you to relax or support your arm at the center of the car as well as at the side. A portable arm rest, which hangs over the front or rear seat backrest, is very convenient. *Centerest* ($7.95).

You can pay almost any amount of money for a trouble lamp or spot light. *Monowatt Handy Light* (at $1) may be considered a Best Buy in this department. Though small and fragile, it gives plenty of light when plugged into the lighter socket, and it has a long enough cord.

The *Stadco Life Saver* (about $5) is a toylike affair, which contains a good safety idea that CU hopes will spread. The device hangs in the rear window of the car like a miniature traffic light. While the driver has his foot on the gas, the green light is on; when he relaxes the accelerator, the yellow lights up; and when the brakes are applied, a red light shines to the rear as usual, supplementing the car's stop lights. The device serves two purposes: first, it warns of a slowdown, so that the following driver can keep at a safe distance. Secondly, the green light indicates that the car ahead is in motion, which, at night or in a fog, is not always easy to determine. Regarding the *Stadco* device, one note of warning should be given—it is still strange (and even slightly irritating) to other drivers and maneuvers should not be made which rely upon its being understood by the other driver.



A key chain with two loops, one of which holds your ignition key and is detachable from the other loop, so that the parking lot attendant doesn't have in his possession keys to your dashlocker and trunk. It works like a charm. About 60¢.

A new twist to the problem of locking the rear doors of a four-door sedan so that children can't fall out is provided by Sleetex Co.'s *Twistlok* ($1), which screws to the rain gutter above the rear door and can be turned down, like an old-fashioned wooden turnbutton, to prevent the door's being opened past it. Two are required.

the morris minor

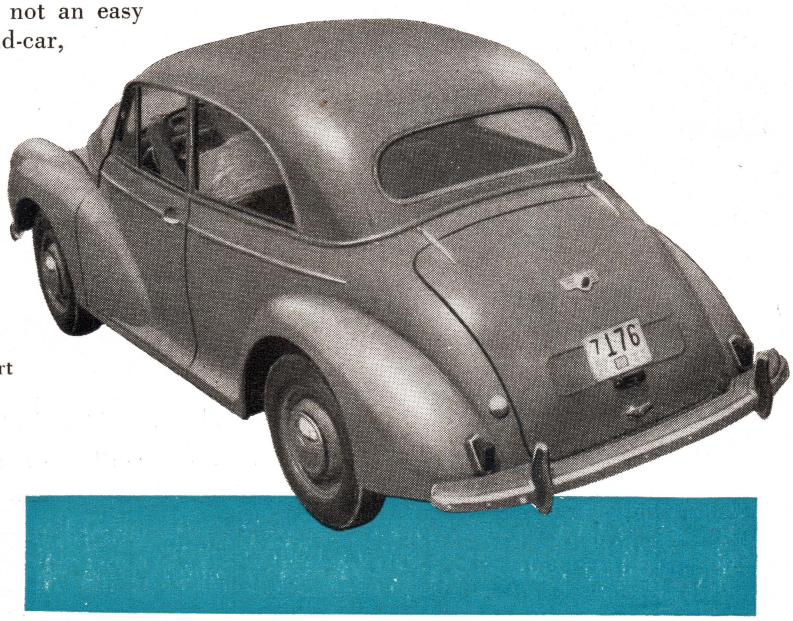
Here is a $1450 British import which has some features not found in many American cars priced well above it. But this little gem also has flaws

Next time you meet a dumpy-looking little *Morris Minor* on the road, tip your hat to it. For 1450 present-day dollars, this British import gives transportation that is really high-class in several respects, and it won the respect of all the CU consultants who drove it.

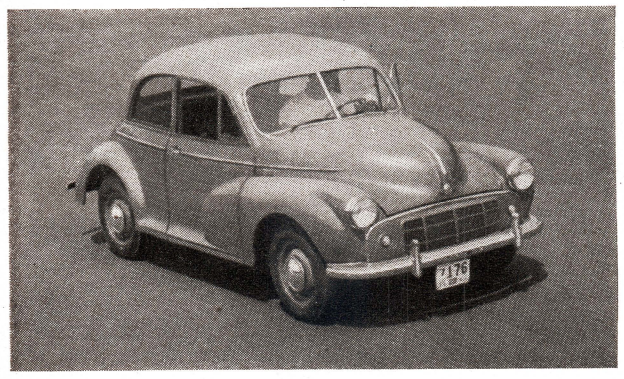
Although it is one of the cheapest vehicles available, the *Morris* has many features which are not cheap at all. Its front wheel suspension is by steel bars, placed in torsion by the car's weight, and twisted further by the action of the wheels—an expensive construction not used on American cars because of its expense. The *Morris Minor* also has a four-speed transmission —and it is handshifted, to be sure—which gives synchronized shifts into second, third and "high." The high gear is direct drive, and, unlike the overdrive cruising gear of American cars, it is a manual shift just like the lower gears. The body and frame of the *Morris* are of the desirable "unit" construction. Steering is a precise type—rack and pinion—used on many light European sports cars. Trunk space is surprisingly good for such a small car, and the rear seat back can be folded down to augment it. The whole car is about four feet shorter, and nearly a foot narrower, than a *Chevrolet* or *Ford*, which takes a lot of the worry and work out of maneuvering and parking the car.

Unfortunately, the adjective "small" has also to be used for the seating dimensions of the *Morris Minor*. The rear seat—all seats are imitation leather—lies between the rear wheel housings and is less than 41 inches wide at the hips. Headroom is scant. Two "bucket" seats in front, separated by the drive-shaft tunnel and the horizontal emergency brake lever, are 17½ inches wide and reasonably comfortable. The door-to-door width of the body is 50 inches. Since the doors are only 37 inches high (minimum on American cars is 41 inches), the *Morris* is not an easy car to get into, which counts against it for second-car, stop-and-start service.

Once the driver is in (*Continued on next page*)



The Morris Minor steers and parks easily, and it gave 39 miles to the gallon in CU's tests. But it fell down badly in both power and comfort



the *Morris*, furthermore, he finds that his vision is seriously limited, in comparison with American cars, except downward over the hood. Not only are the windshield and rear window small, but the windshield post, where it joins the roof, has sweeping curves which create a large, dangerous blind spot for drivers of even average height. The driver also finds that his foot on the brake pedal is apt to come up against the steering column or overlap the accelerator, or both. Britons must have small feet. As for the driver's left foot, regardless of nationality, there is no satisfactory place to put it when it's not working on the clutch.

Operating characteristics

The *Morris* is powered by a four-cylinder, side-valve engine of 27½ HP. Its total piston displacement is only a little greater than one cylinder of a *Hudson Hornet*. As you can see from the Facts and Figures on this page, revolutions per mile are high, piston travel in feet per mile normal, due to the short stroke. Maximum speed is a little over 60 mph.

The *Morris* shares with other small-engine European cars —but has to a greater degree than most—an inability to cope with hills at low car speeds, or to accelerate rapidly, particularly in high gear. Below 30 mph you are better off in "third" than in "high"; after rounding corners, you are best off in "second." All starts must be made in "first." If you are forced down from "high" to "third," as you will be by any grade of 6% or so that you can't rush, your running speed in "third" shouldn't go much over 40 mph.

This situation is Point One in practically every critic's three-point appraisal of the *Minor*: it would be better off with a little more power—which would probably improve even the gas mileage under most driving conditions.

Point Two is the universal tribute paid to the steering and handling characteristics of the *Morris*. Few, if any, cars surpass it in quick, precise steering (not always free from road shock, however), and in dependable road-hugging maneuverability. As CU pointed out long ago, these qualities in a car are as desirable at low as at high speeds, in coping with the hazards of roads and traffic. Furthermore, precise handling has a very large part in the prevention of driver fatigue. You can drive the *Morris* all day long without working at the steering wheel.

Point Three, which is inevitably mentioned in discussing the *Morris Minor*, is its riding qualities. These are unexpectedly good for so light a car, due in large part to the torsion-bar suspension plus strictly American-style weight distribution. But while, overall, the ride is good for a 1700-pound car, it runs the gamut, depending on the road surface, from very good to quite uncomfortable. And it must be clearly said that riding comfort in the *Morris* is well below the level set by *Studebaker*, *Ford* and *Chevrolet* —to say nothing of the outstanding *Plymouth* ride.

Another source of discomfort and fatigue in the *Morris Minor* is the very high noise level inside the car. While the engine is at least moderately quiet, the road noise transmitted into the interior is, in the judgment of CU's consultants, the highest of any car they have driven. There is, however, little wind noise and a minimum of tire squeal.

Performance and economy

Standard practice, where hills are steep and horsepower is low, is to "rush" the hill as fast as possible, lose speed going up, and ease slowly over the crest. On CU's 9%, mile-long, test grade this technique did not work. The *Morris* got nowhere in high gear. In "third," with a flying start, carrying two, the purposely abused car staggered over the top at 10 mph. In second, it accelerated slowly all the way or buzzed up at a reasonable 20 mph. Note also in the Facts and Figures section the times for the standing quarter-mile and acceleration to 30 mph (60 mph, after all, is close to the *Morris'* top speed and any car is slow to reach its maximum).

Gas mileage is another story. Run nose-to-tail with the *Volkswagen* over comparatively level roads and in light traffic, at 45 mph whenever possible, the *Morris* covered 185 miles on less than five gallons for an average of 39.5 miles per gallon (the *Volkswagen* did even better). Aside from limiting the speed to 45 mph, no gas-saving tricks were used, nor was the car specially tuned. In fact, the car was probably running too cold (it has no engine heat indicator) for best results. Run under CU's standard simulated traffic conditions, the *Morris* turned in a high 29 mpg at 18.4 mph average.

Braking performance, after the coasting car had been held at 50 mph for a half mile going down the grade, was excellent, with no sign of fading.

FACTS AND FIGURES—1952 MORRIS MINOR

PRICE: Morris Minor four-door sedan, $1595; CU's car, a two-door sedan, $1445 (delivered at U. S. ports).

DIMENSIONS: Overall length, 148 inches; overall width, 61 inches. Turning circle diameter, wall to wall, 34 feet. Minimum road clearance of empty car, 7.2 inches under engine oil pan drain plug.

TIRES: Size, 5.00x14.

CURB WEIGHT: CU's car, 1770 pounds, of which 773 pounds (43.7%) was on rear wheels.

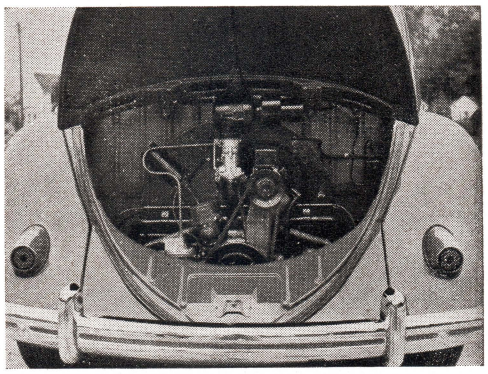
ENGINE: Four-cylinder, in line, L-head valve arrangement; bore and stroke, 2.24 x 3.54 in.; piston displacement, 56 cu. in. Compression ratio, 6.6 to 1. Maximum advertised horsepower, 27.5 at 4400 rpm.

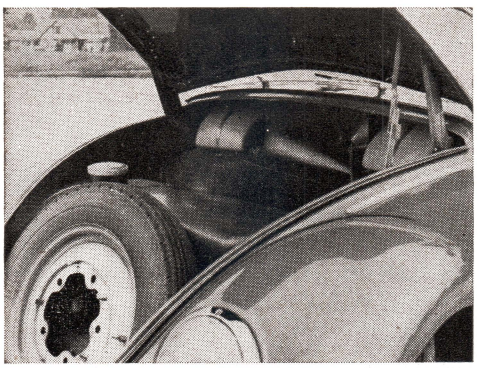
ENGINE SPEEDS: In fourth gear (axle ratio, 4.55 to 1), 3947 revolutions per mile (piston travel, 2330 feet per mile). In third gear (axle ratio, 7.02 to 1), 6086 revolutions per mile (piston travel, 3590 feet per mile).

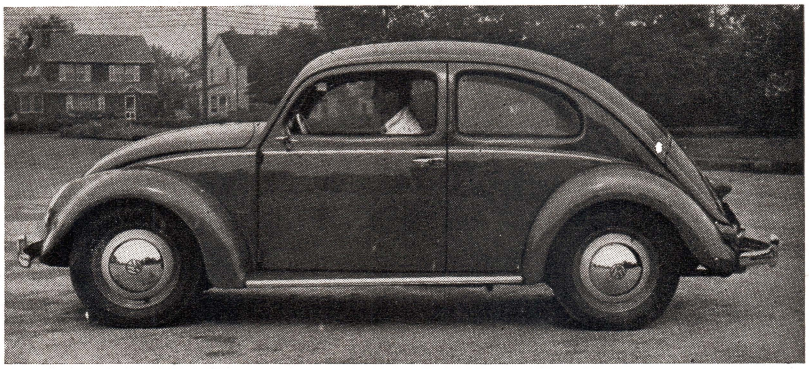
PERFORMANCE: Covered a level quarter mile from standing start in an average of 28.3 seconds. Acceleration from 0 to 60 mph., level, 73 seconds.

GAS AND OIL MILEAGE: In a "nose-to-tail" (Volkswagen and Morris Minor) comparative gasoline mileage trip, which covered 185 miles (see text), the Morris averaged 39.5 miles per gallon. In CU's simulated traffic test, 29 mpg at an average speed of 18.4 mph. Overall gas mileage for CU's ownership of car, 33.9 mpg for 2900 miles. Oil consumption: one quart in 2400 miles after initial oil change.

the volkswagen







The way to tell the front end of a Volkswagen is to lift the hood. You'll find the spare tire and a gas tank. Engine is in the rear

The German *Volkswagen*, or People's Car, has an international reputation and, from the engineer's point of view, an interesting history. It was designed to do a specific job; to be a low-cost, mass-produced car, economical to operate but capable of coping with high-speed superhighways. Apparently, there was little interference with the engineers while the job was being done. The result was an unorthodox, keenly efficient vehicle now being produced in a modern West Germany plant with a capacity of 10,000 cars a month. At present, 34% of production is exported. The standard *Volkswagen* two-door sedan costs $1395 in this country; the deluxe model, which CU tested, $1595.

If you're tired of the commonplace in cars, the *Volkswagen* is a good refresher. Open the hood and you find the gas tank, the spare tire, and room for a couple of weekend bags and a briefcase, little more. Open what looks like the trunk-lid and you find the engine, which is combined in one unit with the clutch, transmission, and differential gears. The engine is a flat four, with two cylinders on each side of the crankshaft. It is air cooled, and has other unorthodox features. The car frame has a tubular backbone, running down the middle of the floor; the rear axle is in two pieces, pivoting at the differential. All four springs are torsion bars. Though the transmission has four forward speeds, none is a direct drive. Shifting is manual and none of the gears have synchronizers to prevent clashing when you shift. The road weight of CU's deluxe model was only 1610 pounds, of which 910 pounds or 56.5% was on the rear wheels, thus reversing the usual American practice, and providing superior rear wheel traction.

In view of all the sleazy detail workmanship and fragile gadgetry CU's experts have seen on various cars, it is a pleasure to report that its deluxe *Volkswagen* was solidly and neatly (but not gaudily) finished without any apparent flaw inside or out, from its excellent enamel paint job to the spare fan belt in the tool kit.

Body, seating, and controls

Despite its rear engine, the floor of the *Volkswagen* has a tunnel or hump down the middle, formed by the tubular backbone of its frame. The resulting structure is a sturdy one. As with the *Morris*, bucket-type front seats—cloth upholstered—are located on each side of the tunnel, with the hand brake lever horizontal between them. These seats are longer and more comfortable than those on the *Morris*. Both front seats are adjustable, and their backs fold forward, giving excellent access to the rear seat for a two-door car. Front leg room is excellent, though there is no slanting toe board.

The *Volkswagen's* rear seat is very short of knee room, partly because the cushion itself is extra deep from front to back—20 inches. The chair-height rear seat is 52 inches wide—11 inches wider than the *Morris*—at the hips. Headroom is scant. Supplementing the limited luggage space under the *Volkswagen's* hood is a deep carpet-lined trough behind the rear seat, approximately a yard long, a foot wide, and 15 inches deep.

Despite a horizontally narrow windshield and a high cowl, driver vision forward is quite good, and the area swept by the (electric) wiper is well located. The road ahead may be seen very close to the car. Rearward, how-

Continued on next page

volkswagen continued

ever, the story is pretty sad. The divided oval rear window is only 25 inches wide and 5¾ inches in projected height at its maximum. However, it does afford unlimited visibility down the road directly to rear, via the rearview mirror.

The location of the controls is orthodox as far as starter button, clutch, foot brake, accelerator, and floor-mounted gear lever are concerned. The choke, however, is on the floor. The control for the built-in hot-air heater is on the floor tunnel back of the hand brake. The battery is on the floor, too, under the rear seat.

Operating characteristics

Like the *Morris*, the *Volkswagen* is grossly lacking in performance by American standards. Though its engine is slightly larger in piston displacement, it develops only 25 HP against 27½ for the *Morris*. But there is a big difference. The *Volkswagen* engine, instead of winding up to 4400 rpm like that of the *Morris*, has better pulling power at low speed and does not run as fast. In fact, its revolutions per mile in top gear and "third" are no more than, for example, a 1952 Gyromatic-transmission *Dodge*. Actually, the *Volkswagen* was designed to run at pretty nearly its top speed all day long.

Like many air-cooled engines, that of the *Volkswagen* is rather noisy. Partly offsetting the noise is the engine's location; experts agree that engine noise is more tolerable —for reasons partly psychological—in back of you than in front. Since road noise on the *Volkswagen* is very slight, its overall noise level is better than that of the *Morris*.

As with the *Morris*, the *Volkswagen* gear shift is there to be used. Unsynchronized shifting requires a little more skill, and is missed most in shifting down from "third" to "second." On the *Volkswagen* only "third" and "fourth" are quiet gears, and the term is relative, some gear noise being audible even in the indirect "fourth" speed.

The *Volkswagen's* air-cooled engine, besides requiring no anti-freeze, warms up quickly (and, of course, cools off quickly, too). Heat dissipated from the cylinders is blown through pipes to warm the car interior, which it does fairly well, and to defrost the windshield. Even at the time of the follow-the-leader run (on which running at a speed of 45 mph whenever possible, the *Volkswagen* averaged 40.6 mpg), the engine was running too cool, and in cold weather some of the air intake must be covered over.

The performance of the *Volkswagen*, though somewhat more sprightly than the *Morris*, is of the same general character, requiring consistent use of the lower gears on medium-steep grades and for acceleration after corners and slow-downs.

As with the *Morris*, the *Volkswagen's* high gear attack on CU's test hill petered out very quickly. But with the same start (40 mph) and load, the *Volkswagen* ran the hill easily in "third" gear, reaching a terminal speed of just over 30 mph.

On the test for brake fade described for the *Morris*, the *Volkswagen*, although it did not stop as quickly as the *Morris*—and with some smoking of the brakes on the "hot stop"—showed little fading of the brakes.

FACTS AND FIGURES—1952 VOLKSWAGEN

PRICE: Volkswagen standard two-door sedan, $1395; CU's car, a deluxe two-door sedan, $1595 (delivered at U. S. ports).

DIMENSIONS: Overall length, 160 inches; overall width, 60.5 inches. Turning circle diameter, wall to wall, 36.8 feet. Minimum road clearance of empty car, 8.2 inches under front center frame.

TIRES: Size, 5.00x16.

CURB WEIGHT: CU's car, 1610 pounds, of which 910 pounds (56.5%) was on rear wheels.

ENGINE: Four cylinder, horizontally opposed, air-cooled, in rear of car; overhead valves, pushrod operated; bore and stroke, 2.95 x 2.52 inches; piston displacement, 69 cu. in. Compression ratio, 5.8 to 1. Maximum advertised horsepower, 25 at 3300 rpm.

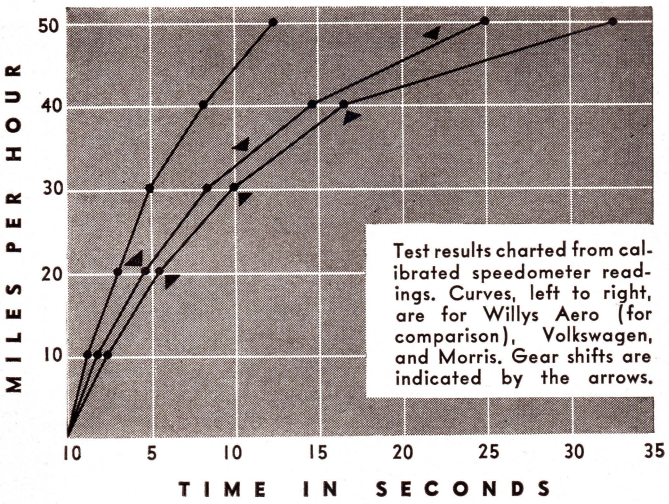
ENGINE SPEEDS: In fourth gear (gear ratio, 0.8 to 1; axle ratio, 4.43 to 1; overall ratio, 3.54 to 1), 2913 revolutions per mile (piston travel, 1224 feet per mile). In third gear (gear ratio, 1.25 to 1; axle ratio, 4.43; overall ratio, 5.54 to 1), 3642 revolutions per mile (piston travel, 1529 feet per mile).

PERFORMANCE: Covered a level quarter mile from standing start in an average of 25.9 seconds. Acceleration from 0 to 60 mph., level, 56 seconds. On 9% test hill reached and held a speed of 30 actual mph in "third" gear.

GAS AND OIL MILEAGE: In a "nose-to-tail" (Volkswagen and Morris Minor) comparative gasoline mileage trip, which covered 185 miles (see text), the Volkswagen averaged 40.6 miles per gallon. In CU's simulated traffic test, 29 mpg at an average speed of 18.9 mph. Overall gas mileage for CU's ownership of car, 34.6 mpg, for 2400 miles. Oil consumption: less than one pint in 2100 miles after initial oil change.

summing up the morris and the volkswagen

Buyers of any foreign car must realize what they are getting into. First, there is the question of resale value; the imported car has to get around the general situation that it is hard to sell a car few people know much about. A second problem is the parts and service difficulty. This is not serious where the car is sold, and where the availability of parts and service can at least be ascertained before purchase. But in some outlying town, the chances of getting a tire for the *Morris*, say, or a headlight bulb for the *Volkswagen* in an emergency, are nil. Foreign screw threads and metric sizes often make even the replacement of some non-vital nut or bolt a difficult problem. Labor costs on mechanisms with which repairmen are unfamiliar or have to "make do" using nonstandard materials—brake linings and rivets, for example—will be high. Even where foreign-car service is well-organized, dealers complain that repair information bulletins, especially regarding the quirks of new models, are slow in coming from the factories abroad.



Once over these hurdles, however, small European family cars like the *Morris* or the *Volkswagen* have much in their favor besides low first cost, good gas mileage, and low oil and antifreeze capacities. Anyone who drives one of these cars in traffic for a few weeks will turn back with regret to the oversized American cars, which require a lot of steering, a lot of parking, and, by contrast, always seem to be scraping sides with their neighbors. On the open road, however, the American car is superior by far; it is not, at present, possible in cars the size of *Morris Minor* or *Volkswagen*—or even considerably larger—to obtain the riding qualities, quietness, and reserve power of the *Chevrolet*, *Ford*, and *Plymouth*.

As between the *Morris Minor* and the *Volkswagen*, it seems to CU's consultants that the advantage—provided service facilities are approximately equal—lies with the German car. The *Volkswagen* offers more room on better seats, easier getting in and out, better forward vision, slightly better performance and economy, and less total noise in going over the road. It has a much more favorable ratio of engine speed and piston travel to vehicle speed, plus the advantages of air cooling, better rear-wheel traction and quasi-standard size tires. The deluxe *Volkswagen* —but not the standard—is superior in finish and appointments. Lastly, from what CU has been able to observe and learn about the two cars, the *Volkswagen* is the tougher of the two.

The *Morris Minor*, however, is the more "civilized" car. You don't need to be an artist with the gears to shift it (but it is said that the *Volkswagen*, too, will have a synchromesh transmission in the near future). *Morris* is well ahead of *Volkswagen* in ease and precision of steering and handling. It rides much better, under all conditions, below 40 mph. It has really good cargo space. Its service accessibility rating is higher, and the average repair man will be more at home with its conventionally arranged mechanical units. There are more *Morris* service stations. It is less functional in appearance than the *Volkswagen*, and more like what we are used to—or were used to—several years ago. Lastly, it has the advantage, compared to the deluxe *Volkswagen*, of a substantially lower price.

MEN'S SOCKS

CU's tests covered 62 brands

and styles in dacron, dynel, nylon,

rayon, and cotton

As a Christmas gift item, men's socks continue to be a hardy perennial.

For this report, CU tested 62 styles of men's socks of seven widely known brands, plus several styles sold by *Sears* and *Wards*. Included were socks made of the newer synthetic fibers—dacron and dynel—as well as the more familiar spun nylon, filament nylon, rayon, and cotton. Anklets, crew socks, and slack socks with a range of 8 to 11 inches from the bottom of the heel to the top of the sock were tested; the less popular half hose (about 14 inches long) were not included. Nearly all those tested had elastic tops.

Of the 62 styles tested, all but six were considered Acceptable. Eleven are rated as Best Buys. Prices of the Best Buys ranged from $1.50 a pair for the top-rated dacron and dynel hose down to 39¢ for flat-knit cotton socks, with spun nylon as low as 76¢ (plus shipping) and filament nylon as low as 56¢ (plus shipping) a pair. Despite rapid style changes in socks, you should be able to obtain any of the Acceptable socks for a reasonably long period. With the exception of a few "clock" styles, all the socks tested were in solid colors, either ribbed or flat knit, which are staple items; argyles and novelty patterns, which have a short style-life, were not included in the tests.

Continued on next page

MEN'S SOCKS continued

The new synthetics

Most people are quite familiar with the properties of cotton, rayon, and filament nylon, but don't know much about the newer synthetics. Dacron, dynel, and spun nylon socks all showed, in CU's tests, substantially greater resistance to abrasion and shrinkage than the cotton and rayon socks tested. In appearance, socks made of these new fibers may be hard to distinguish from cotton, or they may have a wool-like finish. The dynel socks in the test felt like cashmere. However, socks made of dacron, dynel and spun nylon suffer from a tendency of the fiber ends to work free and form tiny balls or "pills" on the surface of the fabric.

Socks made of spun nylon, dacron, and dynel are thicker and heavier than filament nylon socks; they have the dull finish characteristic of cotton or wool rather than the high sheen of filament nylon.

Some users may find the greater durability of dacron, dynel, and nylon socks offset by a major disadvantage of these fibers—poor water absorption. Perspiration is not as readily absorbed by these synthetics as by cotton, and for persons whose feet perspire, there is the increased likelihood of damp feet and discomfort. Because of nylon's poor absorption, many filament nylon socks are made with cotton feet.

Some of the cotton socks tested were of mercerized cotton or lisle. The term mercerized is applied to cotton yarn which has been chemically treated to increase its luster and strength. Lisle is defined as a two or more ply yarn of combed long staple cotton, tightly twisted; it generally has more strength for a given thickness than ordinary yarn.

How well do they wear?

Two of the most vulnerable points in a sock are the big toe area and the back of the heel (about two inches up from the bottom) where the sock rubs against the back of the shoe. Socks are often reinforced for better abrasion resistance at these points.

All the cotton and the rayon socks tested had cotton feet; all the filament nylon socks tested had cotton toes and heels. In some styles the cotton was reinforced with nylon at the heel and the toe. On the dacron, dynel, and spun nylon socks, the entire foot was of the same material as the body of the sock. In CU's tests for abrasion resistance at the heel and toe, cotton was found the least resistant, although it was somewhat improved when reinforced with nylon. The spun nylon socks had much greater resistance to abrasion than cotton; and the dacron socks were even more resistant to abrasion than the spun nylon. The dynel ranked only somewhat better than the nylon-reinforced cotton, and not nearly as abrasion-resistant as the spun nylon.

The question of comfort

All CU's tests on men's socks were conducted after the test samples (generally eight of each style) were run through a washing machine five times in order to shrink them to the size they would have during most of their useful life. In all but six styles with cotton feet, most socks still conformed to their marked size after these washings. The six styles which did not conform to marked size after washing were rated Not Acceptable. Tight socks are not only uncomfortable, they also tend to wear out more quickly than well-fitting socks of the same quality.

The stretchability of a sock is due largely to its knit structure, and is generally greater in a ribbed knit than

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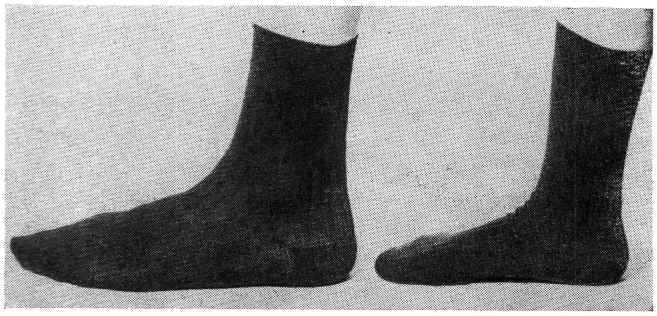
SOCKS FOR FEET OF ANY SIZE

A new kind of men's socks—elastic nylons—which unfortunately reached the market too late to be included in CU's tests, would seem to be a special boon for Christmas giving. These socks come in only one size but are so made as to fit feet of any size. They are made of nylon, and sold under the name *Esquire* (labeled e-x-p-a-n-d-s) for $1.50 a pair. The construction is such that the fabric stretches as much as necessary to fit the feet, and without discomfort even on very large feet.

While CU was unable to put the *Esquire* elastic nylons through the test gamut, several persons who have been wearing them report as follows:

- They do fit comfortably feet from sock size 9 to size 13.
- They neither sag nor bind, and go back to their original dimensions after laundering.
- They have a tendency to "pill" particularly at the heels, toes, and instep, which probably means that they will have relatively poor durability.

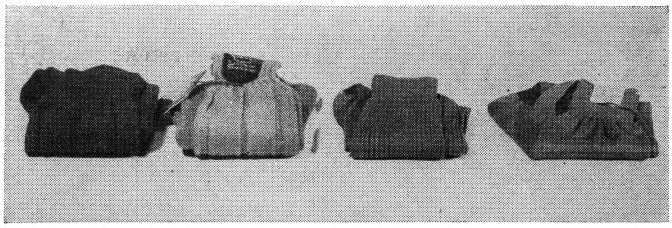
Another brand with characteristics similar to those of the *Esquire* socks is sold by *Interwoven*, also for $1.50 a pair. *Interwoven* comes in three sizes; small, medium, and large. In CU's limited use experience, the large size *Interwoven* fits even small feet satisfactorily, but the medium and small sizes have a much more limited useful range.



Esquire nylon elastic socks fit large and small foot equally well

in a flat knit sock. Stretch affects both the comfort of a sock, and the ease with which it is put on and taken off. Inadequate stretch also means more strain on the sock when it is pulled past the heel, and it may result in a torn sock body. All Acceptable styles passed the standard stretch test.

Persons who spend a good part of the day on their feet, or who have sensitive feet, may experience discomfort in wearing some dacron, dynel, and spun nylon socks which are made of rather heavy yarns since such yarns may be hard on the soles of the feet.



Differences in bulk of different fabrics are shown above. Left to right are socks made of dynel, dacron, spun nylon, and filament nylon

The colors ran

Twelve high-ranking Acceptable styles, including the eleven Best Buys, were put through additional laundering tests to determine whether their colors faded after several washings, and whether they might stain white or light-colored fabrics washed at the same time. All the colors CU's shoppers were able to buy in each of the twelve styles were included in the tests.

In the staining tests, each sock was washed individually for 30 minutes, along with a special test swatch containing strands of cotton, wool, nylon, rayon, and acetate. Almost all of the colored socks of all of the fibers tested stained at least one of these common fibers. The safest procedure is to wash colored socks separately.

Of the 67 colored socks tested for fading (as distinct from the staining test noted above), seven were noticeably faded after four washings, and nine others showed a marked color loss after ten washings. The 51 socks which showed no noticeable loss of color in CU's tests were given the rating designation "did not fade."

A larger proportion of the grey socks faded than those of any other color tested, and not one of the seven black socks faded in the test. The colors tested in each style and the extent of their colorfastness are noted in the ratings.

How CU rated

The ratings have been based on laboratory tests and examination of factors affecting durability and comfort. The socks have been grouped by the kind of fiber used in the body of the sock (that is, the part covering the instep, ankle, and leg); where the foot is not of the same material, it is described in the ratings. The leg lengths (from bottom of heel to top of sock) given were measured after five machine washings. Style numbers can usually be found on the box, sometimes on the socks as well.

RATINGS OF MEN'S DRESS SOCKS: Within each group, listing is in estimated order of overall quality. All had elastic tops unless otherwise indicated.

BEST BUYS

¶ *The following were judged to be Best Buys of their respective groups. For color fastness and other details, see descriptions below.*

■■ **HOLEPROOF Style 995.** $1.50. Ribbed dacron.

■■ **INTERWOVEN Style 6100B*.** $1.50. Ribbed dacron.

■■ **PHOENIX Style E-282.** $1.50. Ribbed dynel.

■■ **INTERWOVEN SOFTIES Style 5400B*.** $1. Ribbed spun nylon.

■■ **WARDS CRESTWOVEN Cat. No. 30B494.** 76¢ plus shipping. Ribbed spun nylon.

■■ **WESTMINSTER Style 4245.** $1. Ribbed filament nylon with nylon sole, cotton heel and toe.

■■ **HOLEPROOF Style 370.** 75¢. Flat knit filament nylon with cotton foot.

■■ **WARDS CRESTWOVEN Cat. No. 30B59.** 56¢ plus shipping. Flat knit filament nylon with cotton foot.

■■ **SEARS PILGRIM Cat. No. 86G2041.** 52¢ plus shipping. Ribbed cotton.

* *The last two digits of Interwoven style numbers vary to indicate color.*

■■ **BACHELORS' FRIEND Style 56-100.** 39¢. Flat knit cotton.

■■ **BACHELORS' FRIEND Style 5700.** 55¢. Flat knit cotton.

ACCEPTABLE

DACRON

¶ *The dacron socks were all of dull finish, and relatively thick. All were ribbed. The quality scores of socks in this group averaged higher than the scores of all other groups. Differences between adjacent brands in the ratings were small. Dacron socks may be subject to pilling (see story). Dacron was used for all parts of these socks.*

■■ **HOLEPROOF Style 995** (Holeproof Hosiery Co., NYC). $1.50. Leg length 9 in. Maroon, brown, green, and gray colors did not fade.

■■ **INTERWOVEN Style 6100B*** (Interwoven Stocking Co., New Brunswick, N. J.). $1.50. Leg length 10½ in. Gray, blue, tan, and yellow colors did not fade; green faded markedly.

■ **PHOENIX Style E-281** (Phoenix Hosiery Co., Milwaukee). $1.50. Leg length 10 in.

■ **SARFERT Style Dacron 200** (Sarfert Hosiery Mills, NYC). $1.50. Leg length 10 in.

■ **INTERWOVEN Style 5100B*.** $1.50. Leg length 11 in. Rib top (no rubber elastic).

■ **WESTMINSTER Style 4777** (Nolde & Horst Co., Reading, Pa.). $1.50. Leg length 10 in.

DYNEL

¶ *The dynel socks were all of dull and fuzzy finish (cashmere-like); two of the styles tested were heavier than the dacron socks rated above, one was not quite as heavy. All were ribbed. This group's scores averaged lower than the dacron group's, mainly because of lower resistance to abrasion of the heel and toe. Differences among these brands were small. Dynel should not be dried or ironed at temperatures above 220°F. Dynel socks may be subject to pilling. Dynel was used for all parts of these socks.*

■■ **PHOENIX Style E-282.** $1.50. Leg length 10 in. Heavy yarns. Maroon, red, brown, green, gray, blue, tan, and yellow did not fade.

■ **WESTMINSTER Style 4605.** $1.50. Leg length 10 in. Heavy yarns.

■ **PHOENIX Style E-232.** $1. Leg length 9½ in. Yarns heavy but not as heavy as those in the socks listed above.

Continued on next page

MEN'S SOCKS RATINGS continued

SPUN NYLON

¶ *Spun nylon (also called staple nylon and Krinkle Fiber nylon) socks were all of dull finish. This group's scores averaged about the same as the dynel group, but the range in quality within this group was greater. Spun nylon socks may be subject to pilling. Spun nylon was used for all parts of these socks. Ribbed unless otherwise stated.*

■■ **INTERWOVEN SOFTIES Style 5400B*.** $1. Leg length 10 in. Maroon, brown, green, blue, black, and yellow did not fade; gray, light blue, and tan faded markedly.

■ **INTERWOVEN SOFTIES Style 6400B*.** $1.50. Leg length 10½ in.

■ **WESTMINSTER Style 4655.** $1.50. Leg length 10 in.

■■ **WARDS CRESTWOVEN Cat. No. 30B494** (Montgomery Ward). 76¢ plus shipping. Leg length 9½ in. Maroon, brown, and blue did not fade; green and gray faded markedly.

■ **WESTMINSTER Style 4250.** $1. Leg length 9½ in.

■ **HOLEPROOF Style 900.** $1. Leg length 9½ in.

■ **PHOENIX Style E-928.** $1. Leg length 9 in.

■ **SARFERT Style 7250.** $1. Leg length 10 in.

■ **SEARS PILGRIM Cat. No. 86G1909** (Sears-Roebuck). 62¢ plus shipping. *Flat knit.* Leg length 9 in.

■ **SEARS PILGRIM Cat. No. 86G1412.** 79¢ plus shipping. Leg length 9½ in.

■ **SEARS PILGRIM Cat. No. 86G1908.** 89¢ plus shipping. Leg length 9½ in.

■ **SARFERT Style 7350.** $1.25. Leg length 10 in.

FILAMENT NYLON

¶ *The socks listed in this group have bodies of high-sheen nylon, but the toes and the heels, and in some cases the soles as well, are of cotton. This group's scores covered a wide range. Because nylon has a low water absorption capacity, those with cotton feet may be more comfortable for some persons. Flat knit unless otherwise noted.*

■■ **HOLEPROOF Style 370.** 75¢. Cotton foot, nylon-reinforced toe. Leg length 9½ in. Green, blue, and black did not fade; maroon, brown and gray faded markedly.

■■ **WESTMINSTER Style 4245.** $1. *Ribbed.* Cotton toe and heel, nylon reinforced; nylon sole. Leg length 10½ in. Maroon, brown, gray, blue, black, and tan did not fade. None of these stained other fabrics in washing.

■ **ESQUIRE Style M790** (Esquire Socks, Div. of Chester H. Roth Co., NYC). 75¢. Cotton foot. Leg length 10 in. Maroon, brown, and black did not fade; blue faded markedly.

■ **PHOENIX Style E-217.** $1. *Ribbed.* Cotton heel and toe, nylon reinforced; nylon sole. Leg length 9½ in.

■ **SARFERT Style 7375.** $1. *Ribbed.* Cotton heel and toe, nylon reinforced; nylon sole. Leg length 10½ in.

■■ **WARDS CRESTWOVEN Cat. No. 30B59** (Montgomery Ward). 56¢ plus shipping. Cotton foot, nylon-reinforced heel and toe. Leg length 9½ in. Brown, gray, and blue did not fade.

■ **BACHELORS' FRIEND Style 5800** (Joseph Black and Sons Co., York, Pa.). 75¢. Cotton foot, nylon reinforced. Leg length 9 in. Guaranteed.

■ **INTERWOVEN Style 1900D*.** $1.10. Clock. Cotton, nylon, and rayon heel, cotton and nylon toe; nylon sole. Leg length 10 in.

■ **INTERWOVEN Style 6500D*.** $1. Cotton foot, toe nylon reinforced. Leg length 10 in.

■ **SARFERT Style 3275.** 75¢. Cotton heel and toe, nylon reinforced; cotton lined nylon sole. Leg length 10 in.

■ **INTERWOVEN Style 5500B*.** $1. *Ribbed.* Cotton toe and heel, nylon reinforced; nylon sole. Leg length 10½ in.

■ **PHOENIX Style E-278.** 75¢. Cotton foot, toe and heel nylon reinforced. Leg length 9½ in.

■ **WESTMINSTER Style 4350.** $1. *Thick and thin;* not a true rib. Cotton toe, heel, and sole, nylon reinforced. Leg length 10 in.

■ **INTERWOVEN Style 1920.00D*.** $1.50. Clock. Cotton and nylon toe; cotton sole and heel. Leg length 9½ in.

COTTON

¶ *Cotton socks in this group are all of more or less dull finish. This group's scores covered the widest range of all the groups. Cotton was used for all parts of these socks, except that some had nylon reinforcing. Socks were made of mercerized cotton or lisle only where so stated. Flat knit unless otherwise noted.*

■■ **SEARS PILGRIM Cat. No. 86G2041.** 52¢ plus shipping. *Ribbed.* Mercerized cotton; toe and heel nylon reinforced. Leg length 9½ in. Maroon, brown, blue, black, and tan did not fade; gray faded markedly. None of these stained other fabrics in washing, except maroon, which stained rayon and nylon.

■ **SARFERT Style 3950.** 85¢. *Ribbed.* Mercerized cotton; toe and heel nylon reinforced. Leg length 9½ in.

■■ **BACHELORS' FRIEND Style 56-100.** 39¢. Toe and heel nylon reinforced. Leg length 8½ in. Navy blue and black did not fade; maroon, brown, gray, and khaki faded markedly.

■ **HOLEPROOF Style 640.** 75¢. *Ribbed.* Mercerized cotton; toe nylon reinforced. Leg length 9½ in.

■ **SARFERT Style 7850.** $1.50. *Ribbed.* Lisle; toe and heel nylon reinforced. Leg length 9 in.

■ **BACHELORS' FRIEND Style 5500.** 55¢. Mercerized cotton; toe and heel nylon reinforced. Leg length 9 in.

■ **INTERWOVEN Style 3920.00D*.** 65¢. Mercerized cotton with clock; toe tip nylon reinforced. Leg length 9 in.

■ **INTERWOVEN Style 8400B*.** 75¢. *Ribbed.* Mercerized cotton; toe tip nylon reinforced. Leg length 10½ in.

■ **WARDS Cat. No. 30B77.** 34¢ plus shipping. Mercerized cotton. Leg length 9 in.

■ **SEARS PILGRIM Cat. No. 86G1408.** 45¢ plus shipping. Mercerized cotton; toe and heel nylon reinforced. Leg length 8½ in.

■ **INTERWOVEN Style 5700B*.** $2. *Ribbed.* Lisle; toe tip nylon reinforced. Leg length 9½ in.

■ **WARDS Cat. No. 30B298.** 39¢ plus shipping. *Ribbed.* Mercerized cotton; toe and heel nylon reinforced. Leg length 9½ in.

■ **INTERWOVEN Style No. 8500B*.** 85¢. *Ribbed.* Mercerized lisle; toe tip nylon reinforced. Leg length 10 in.

■ **SARFERT Style 2550.** $1. *Ribbed.* Lisle; toe and heel nylon reinforced. Leg length 9½ in.

■ **SEARS PILGRIM Cat. No. 86G1402.** 37¢. Leg length 8½ in.

FILAMENT RAYON

¶ *The socks in this group have high sheen bodies; cotton feet. All are flat knit.*

■ **INTERWOVEN Style 600D*.** 75¢. Rayon and nylon body. Toe tip nylon reinforced. Leg length 10 in.

■■ **BACHELORS' FRIEND Style 5700.** 55¢. Toe and heel nylon reinforced. Leg length 9½ in. Maroon, brown, blue, and black did not fade; gray faded markedly.

■ **INTERWOVEN Style 5900.00D*.** 85¢. Clock. Toe tip cotton and nylon. Leg length 9½ in.

■ **INTERWOVEN Style 3600D*.** 65¢. Nylon reinforced toe tip. Leg length 9 in.

■ **SEARS PILGRIM Cat. No. 86G1420.** 49¢ plus shipping. Leg length 9½ in.

■ **INTERWOVEN Style 3900.00D*.** 65¢. Clock. Toe tip cotton and nylon. Leg length 9½ in.

NOT ACCEPTABLE

○ **INTERWOVEN Style 7200B*.** $1.50. "Cotton-lined nylon"; *ribbed.* Six of eight samples were short in foot length after five washings.

○ **INTERWOVEN Style 1200D*.** 65¢. Mercerized cotton; *flat knit.* Four of eight samples were short in foot length after five washings.

○ **INTERWOVEN SOFTIES Style 4900B*.** 75¢. Cotton; *ribbed.* Six of 8 samples were short in foot length after five washings.

○ **PHOENIX Style E-586.** 75¢. Mercerized cotton; *ribbed.* Four of 8 samples were short in foot length after five washings. Heels had very low abrasion resistance.

○ **WARDS Cat. No. 30C69.** 31¢ plus shipping. Cotton; *flat knit.* Five of 7 samples were short in foot length after five washings.

○ **SARFERT Style K79.** 65¢. Mercerized cotton; *ribbed.* Five of 8 samples were short in foot length after five washings.

Some advice that may help you buy the right toy for the pre-school child on your shopping list

TOYS

By Beatrice Bull, Assistant Director, Harriet Johnson Nursery School, New York City

"Play is a child's business." This concept gives the gist of what play means to a child. For him, play is of course joyous and amusing, but much of his satisfaction is derived from its being also serious and purposeful. It is the child's way of learning. Through play he learns to integrate his ideas and feelings about himself, and about the world in which he lives. Toys and materials are the tools a child uses for this job of play. By our choice of these, we affect the child's play and its quality.

Toys can help children in all areas of growth and development. Preschool children enjoy active physical play and need large toys to help them develop their muscles. They enjoy taking things apart and putting things together; they enjoy investigating, experimenting and creating. Basic in their play equipment must be materials such as blocks, paints and clay. Children imitate adults and dramatize their own experiences. They should have props for this kind of play; such things as housekeeping equipment, trains and trucks serve this need. Preschool children soon show the need for playing with other children and should have some toys that they can use together or share. Such things as sandboxes, blocks and dramatic materials serve this purpose.

Toys should be suited to the child's interest and chosen with his age and ability in mind. One criterion for judging the suitability of a toy is whether the child can manage it with a minimum of adult help. If it requires so much effort that it tires him or if it frustrates him and makes him angry, it should be put aside until he is older. A toy should be a challenge; it should hold a child's interest and suggest activity or use. A toy too old or one too young will not be used for very long. Parents tend to misjudge toys in terms of age suitability, and frequently buy things too old. If eager parents try to force play with many materials above the child's level of ability, he may become strained and tense. Instead of encouraging an enthusiastic, eager approach to new problems and to learning, such material may cause discouragement, and may foster a tendency in the child to give up quickly and to show poor power of concentration. Having a toy around long before he is ready to make the most of it detracts later from the pleasure of newness.

Although a child's likes and interests should be considered in the choice of toys, it is a good plan to take inventory now and then, to be sure you are not over-weighting one type of material to the exclusion of others. Perhaps a little girl is very domestic and plays almost exclusively with dolls and household equipment. She will also profit from being encouraged to ride a tricycle, to paint, and to build with blocks.

As the child gets older, individual interests become more important in the choice of toys and materials. By the time a child is four or five there are sometimes sex differences in the choice of toys but such differences are usually not clear cut until later. A grouping by age level should not be followed rigidly since children develop at varying rates. In general, however, there are age level needs and interests which give a jumping off place for the choice of toys.

Get toys of good quality even if you must get fewer of them. Although some toys are expensive, they last all through a child's preschool years and beyond. Look for sturdy, well-constructed toys that will stand up under hard usage. A toy should be safe with no sharp points or edges, and should be finished with non-toxic, lead-free paint. Many of the appealing plastic toys break easily, thus frustrating the child. A good toy should stimulate a child to some kind of action, self expression or dramatic play. At the preschool level a child's satisfaction comes primarily from the activity of using a material rather than from the material itself. For this reason mechanical toys have less value than creative ones.

Good toys lose much of their play value if they are not readily available and in good working order. Materials children can use by themselves are best kept on low open shelves, where they can be grouped according to use. Table materials should be kept near a low table, and blocks and accessories on shelves near an open floor space. By all means avoid toy chests where toys, tossed in at random, are easily broken and hard to find. It is helpful to have a closet or higher shelves for materials a small child cannot handle alone—and for toys used infrequently.

Too many toys available at one time are confusing and are not used to best advantage. Although this principle holds throughout the year, it is particularly true at Christmas and birthdays. A wise parent stores away the surplus.

Many toys and play materials will be used throughout the preschool years and even beyond. Heading this list are building blocks—the unpainted Caroline Pratt type developed from the unit base—1⅜x2¾x5½ inches. A sound idea is to start with a small set selling for about

Continued on next page

TOYS continued

$12.50, and to add the more complicated forms—curves, switches, ramps, etc.—as the child's concepts and abilities grow.

There are many accessory materials to be added too, as the child progresses. Wedgie people and animals (20¢ to 65¢) scaled to fit the blocks are available from the Educational Equipment Company where they were developed. Bendable rubber play people (90¢ to $1.25), constructed so that they will hold different positions, scaled to the blocks, were recently developed by Creative Playthings. Like the wedgies they will probably be used as long as the blocks are. Both of these stores also sell very nice rubber farm animals (35¢ to $1.25). Less expensive, but adequate, rubber cows, horses, pigs, colts and calves are often available in the stores.

Some other materials used to enrich block play are: Block Transportation set made by Playskool ($1.50); rubber cars, trucks, and airplanes (15¢ to 35¢). The Skaneateles train set is useful with or without blocks. It is a small wooden train with a grooved track which is easily put together by four-year-olds, and is much to be preferred to an electric train for preschool children (about $10 provides the train and a good supply of tracks).

Painting can be a satisfying activity for many years and careful planning for the setup contributes greatly to the child's enjoyment. An adjustable easel is a wise investment. Good quality poster paint has proven most satisfactory and if bought in large jars will prove economical. A good quality non-toxic paint is made by the Iddings Paint Co. and sells for about $1.50 a quart. An inexpensive type of paper is newsprint (about 80¢ per 100 sheets). For the preschool children paint brushes from one-half inch to one inch wide are preferred. An adequate brush ranges in price from 20¢ to 60¢, depending on size.

The large hexagonal crayons are recommended for preschool children and can be found in all of the equipment supply places for about 35¢ for a box of eight. A ream of drawing paper is not too much to buy at one time.

When a child plays with clay he should have a good-sized piece to play with, a piece big enough to hold in his two hands, to roll, squeeze and pound. The clay should be non-sticky but malleable. Moist modeling clay (five pounds costs about 70¢) can be kept at the right consistency if it is stored with a damp cloth over it in a closed container.

Most children are ready to use daddy's hammer constructively sooner than many parents realize. A young child can become quite skillful in driving nails and sawing wood when allowed to use tools under supervision. It is a mistake to provide one of the so-called carpentry sets in which the tools are too small, too light and too dull to produce satisfying results. It is better to get a few tools of good quality at a hardware store than the usual child's set. In choosing a hammer, look for one with a head made of forged steel fastened securely to the handle and weighing about eight ounces. A good one sells for about $1.50. A cross-cut saw 14 to 16 inches long should have fine teeth. It should cost about $1.25. Large-headed nails, soft wood and clamps or a vise to hold the wood in place are all that will be needed to start. In a home where there is room, a workbench is a good investment even for a five- or six-year-old since it can be used for many years. However, a good one is expensive (about $45.) It is better not to get any at all than to buy one of the flimsy variety on sale in many toy stores. A five- or six-year-old child will enjoy using a plane, sandpaper, tri square, brace and bit, and coping saw.

Preschool children require simple, well-made dolls. A rubber doll that can be washed is a necessity and the stuffed variety with painted or embroidered eyes and yarn hair seem most satisfactory for the younger children. Straight arms and legs make for ease of dressing and undressing. For a four- or five-year-old, a doll with eyes that open and close and with hair that can be combed is appreciated. Horsman makes one of vinyl that sells for $4.98 for the 15-inch doll and $6.98 for the 17-inch doll. For this age it is still wise to stick to unbreakable dolls. Children love to undress and dress dolls and should have clothes for them that fit loosely, with large arm, neck and leg openings, and fasten with large buttons or zippers. It is hard to find these features in doll clothes in the stores, but frequently one can remake the clothes easily by adding large buttons and loops, or opening the neck of a dress wider so that it can be put on and taken off easily.

In choosing a doll carriage look for one that has a long enough wheel base to keep it from tipping when the child leans on the handle—get one that is a comfortable height for the child to manage. A doll bed should be strong and roomy.

In choosing household equipment for your daughter (stove, cupboard, ironing board, etc.) get it child-size rather than doll-size. What you provide in this line would have to be determined by your space and your child's special interests as well as your pocketbook. Adequate substitutions can be made at home from boxes or painted orange crates. Children love to play at cooking and to have tea parties. The smallest size real pots and pans have more play value than tiny ones sold in toy departments. A one-cup aluminum coffee or tea pot is just the right size to use with a child's tea set. Be sure the tea set you choose is made of durable plastic or metal and that the cups are large enough to handle, easily.

All children like to "dress-up" and enjoy clothing which adds to a role they are assuming. A two-year-old is satisfied with placing a scarf on his head and scuffing around in daddy's slippers, but an older child wants something a little more realistic although not necessarily elaborate. It is not necessary to buy expensive costumes to equip a pre-

school "cowboy" or "cowgirl." A cowboy hat and simple gun (not a cap pistol!) for a young child; a holster, any gay plaid shirt and dungarees with perhaps a jeweled belt complete a five-year-old's outfit. Materials of different lengths and textures such as curtain material, colorful cotton and rayon prints, strips of wool, pieces of velvet, etc., can be worn in many ways to glamorize the wearer. Simple skirts, preferably full and long, can be made more easily than bought and do a great deal to dress up a "mommy" or a "princess." Other articles of clothing useful for dressing up are aprons, hats of various sorts especially those suggesting occupations—an engineer's cap, a sailor hat, a nurse's cap. And remember, some of mother's and daddy's discarded things—a pocketbook, an artificial flower, a necktie or vest—will often provide as much play value and pleasure as a store-bought outfit.

Perhaps the most enjoyed of all wheel toys by the young child is the tricycle. Don't let yourself be persuaded to get the small-sized two wheeler with a stabilizer on the back, however. The thrill of mastering a two wheeler at six or seven is dulled by having it for so long ahead of time and it often isn't the right size by the time the child is ready for it anyway. Look for a velocipede that works smoothly on good bearings, is maneuverable and not too heavy, and has a broad enough base so that it is well balanced and not tippy. Tricycles made by Colson or Taylor ($22.95 to $29.95) have been found to meet these qualifications. A wagon for a young child should be big enough for him to ride in. Most of the small wagons are tippy when turned. The wooden-body express wagons for larger children seem relatively durable.

TOYS FOR CHILDREN FROM INFANCY TO SIX YEARS OF AGE

INFANTS:
Infants need objects which they can handle, mouth, watch and reach for. Toys for them must be washable and unbreakable, with no sharp edges or pieces small enough to swallow. Babies enjoy lightweight objects of varied textures, shapes and colors—rattles of hard rubber or good quality plastic, rubber blocks, stuffed animals, large wooden beads strung securely.

TODDLERS:
Toddlers like to investigate whatever they can reach. They like to move things from one place to another, to push and pull and throw. They enjoy simple things to take apart and put together. This is the time for simple color cones and peg boards with large pegs such as those made by Holgate. Holgate's Nesting Cup Cart, $2, and Playskool's Rattle Push, $1.25, are appropriate for this age. Also Holgate's Nesting Pyramid, six bright wooden boxes that fit into each other, $3, will continue to be used for some time. Toddlers enjoy balls, bean bags, stuffed toys, simple rag dolls, and floating bath toys.

TWO-YEAR-OLDS:
For active outdoor and indoor play, two-year-olds need things to climb on, over and into—such as boxes or large wooden blocks, a safe wagon or kiddy-car (no durable one could be found at present); a low slide, a low swing with arms and back; things to push and pull. To help play out their experiences they need simple domestic equipment, a push train, wooden or rubber cars. For construction and problem solving, more complicated peg boards and blocks, and simple wooden puzzles. Clay, crayons, and paints may be used under close supervision. Assorted unbreakable cups, scrub brushes, and rubber dolls are useful for water play. A sand box provides a great deal of satisfaction for the two-year-old and will be used for many years for a favorite outdoor activity. Toys for two-year-olds should be simple in structure—with no wheels to bite off, or small pieces to swallow.

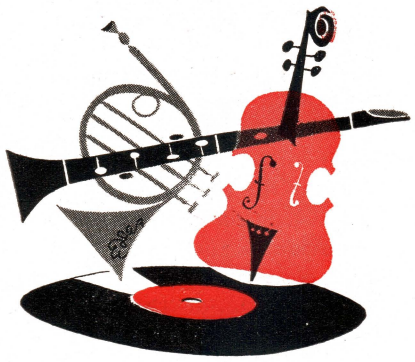
THREE-YEAR-OLDS:
Three-year-olds are very much interested in active play and more skillful in the use of their bodies. They are ready for more challenging climbing apparatus such as a ladder box or a low horizontal bar or Doorway Gym. They enjoy tricycles, wagons, and wheelbarrows with two front wheels. Both boys and girls are usually interested in domestic play and enjoy dolls with simple clothing, doll dishes, housekeeping toys such as brooms, irons, cooking utensils, doll bed and doll carriage. They are ready for a few more accessories to use with blocks—some wedgies or rubber workmen, some familiar animals. For quiet play they enjoy wooden puzzles with more pieces, blunt scissors to use with construction paper, large wooden beads to string, and table blocks such as kindergarten cubes.

FOUR-YEAR-OLDS:
From four to five, with their interest in active physical play, children enjoy climbing apparatus of various sorts such as a horizontal ladder, higher slide and swings. Wherever possible to have them, boards, hollow blocks and packing cases encourage active outdoor dramatic play with other children. More indoor blocks and accessories are needed to keep up with the four-year-old's rapidly increasing information and ideas. All sorts of cars and trucks and a train with wheels are enjoyed and put to good use. The child's housekeeping equipment can be replenished and supplemented. Dress up clothes have a special appeal at this age. By this time, children like to use table materials such as stone blocks, design cubes and plastic blocks. They can also play simple games such as picture lotto.

FIVE- AND SIX-YEAR-OLDS:
Physical activity for children this age is more purposeful and social and therefore they need more materials that can be used with playmates. Large outdoor construction equipment, large balls for simple games, and a lightweight baseball bat answer this need. Add to the indoor blocks all available shapes and accessories including more types of wedgie and rubber workmen and a wider variety of animals. Different kinds of boats, cars, trucks and planes are always welcome in connection with transportation projects. Such props as a conductor's ticket punch and changemaker add to group dramatic play. On the domestic side girls usually want more detail in their dolls and doll clothes and housekeeping equipment to aid in the feeding, dressing and caring for their families. Varieties of table materials for design and for construction are a great source of pleasure, as are more complicated puzzles. Many simple games can be enjoyed—picture dominoes and checkers as well as real dominoes and parcheesi after a child has learned to count. Sewing with large-eyed needles on loosely woven material can be fun. Children this age are delighted with science equipment such as a magnet and a magnifying glass. Large-scale, workable steam shovels, road machinery and farm machinery are welcome.

NOTE: Playthings of the types described can be found in many department stores and toy shops. The following companies specialize in play materials for pre-school children:

CHILDCRAFT EQUIPMENT CO., 155 East 23rd St., New York City 10.
PLAYSKOOL MFG. CO., 1750 N. Lawndale Ave., Chicago 47.
CREATIVE PLAYTHINGS, INC., 5 University Place, New York City 3.
EDUCATIONAL EQUIPMENT CO., 69 West 23rd St., New York City 10.



records for giving

BY PHILIP MILLER

In making any selection of the "year's best" there is always a question of how it should be compiled. The reader, or the person to whom he plans to give records as a gift, may be interested especially in twelve-tone or modern music generally; he may take his delight in Baroque choral works or in the instruments of that period; his tastes may be satisfied by the great men of Romanticism; he may be a connoisseur of folk music; or he may simply "like a good tune." On the other hand, he may take a broader view, ranging from Buxtehude and Bach through the other B's to Bartók, while retaining a fondness for Grieg and Rachmaninoff.

It has therefore seemed best to list the recommended recordings in time-honored classifications. The aim has been to bring variety into each group. As usual, many desirable discs have been crowded out. It would be impossible to include all the admirable Beethoven, Mozart and Schubert chamber music that has come from the companies this year; the items listed should be taken as good samples. With three projected complete series of Beethoven piano sonatas launched (Kempff's for *Decca* already complete, Appelbaum's for *Westminster* well on the way, and Solomon's for *Victor* barely started), it seems best to omit them all with the reminder that all have their points, with preference going at this stage to Kempff. Similarly, Artur Rubinstein has added several discs to a series that may eventually include the complete piano works of Chopin—an altogether first-rate achievement except for a mechanical flaw in one of the Polonaises (CONSUMER REPORTS, June 1952)—but the list of available rival performances brings a final judgment down to the level of personal taste.

A great many recordings of specialized interest might have been included had space been no consideration—some interesting American Indian documentaries from the *Library of Congress,* historical re-issues of such artists as Caruso, McCormack, Ponselle, and an array of Chopin pianists from *Victor,* a set of Muzio dubbings (not too carefully checked for recording speeds) from *Esoteric,* and a more recent memento of the late Maria Cebotari from *Urania. Columbia* has re-issued the Weingartner readings of all the Beethoven and Brahms symphonies. For those interested in contemporary American music, the *American Recording Society* is issuing orchestral works on a subscription basis. The *Society for the Publication of American Music* has also entered the recording field.

The list which follows has been made up of records issued or reviewed during the past year. Wherever a review has appeared in these columns, the date is supplied.

orchestral

BARTOK: MUSIC FOR STRINGS, PERCUSSION AND CELESTA; **BLOCH:** CONCERTO GROSSO; Chicago Symphony Orchestra under Rafael Kubelik; *Mercury* MG 50001, $5.95 (reviewed in March).

BEETHOVEN: SYMPHONY NO. 6, F, OP. 68 (PASTORAL); Vienna State Opera Orchestra under Hermann Scherchen; *Westminster* WL 5108, $5.95 (reviewed in October).

BRAHMS: SYMPHONY NO. 2, D, OP. 73; San Francisco Symphony Orchestra under Pierre Monteux; *Victor* LM 1173, $5.72 (reviewed in March).

HAYDN: SYMPHONY NO. 43, E-FLAT (MERCURY); SYMPHONY NO. 50, C; Danish State Radio Orchestra under Mogens Wöldike; *Haydn Society* HSLP 1041, $5.95 (reviewed in March).

PROKOFIEV: SCYTHIAN SUITE, OP. 20; LIEUTENANT KIJI SUITE, OP. 60; Vienna Symphony Orchestra under Hermann Scherchen; *Westminster* WL 5091, $5.95 (reviewed in March).

RACHMANINOFF: SYMPHONY NO. 2, E MINOR, OP. 27; Philadelphia Orchestra under Eugene Ormandy; *Columbia* ML 4433, $5.45 (reviewed in March).

W. SCHUMAN: SYMPHONY NO. 3; Philadelphia Orchestra under Eugene Ormandy; *Columbia* ML 4413, $5.45 (reviewed in March).

STRAVINSKY: LE SACRE DU PRINTEMPS; Boston Symphony Orchestra under Pierre Monteux; *Victor* LM 1149, $5.72 (reviewed in March).

concertos

BEETHOVEN: CONCERTO NO. 4, G, OP. 58, Paul Badura-Skoda (piano) and Vienna State Opera Orchestra under Hermann Scherchen; *Westminster* WL 5143, $5.95.

BRAHMS: DOUBLE CONCERTO, OP. 102, A-MINOR; Nathan Milstein (violin), Gregor Piatigorsky (cello) and Robin Hood Dell Orchestra of Philadelphia under Fritz Reiner; *Victor* LM 1191, $5.72.

GRIEG: CONCERTO, OP. 16, A-MINOR; **SCHUMANN:** CONCERTO, OP. 54, A-MINOR; Dinu Lipatti (piano) and Philharmonia Orchestra under Alcea Galliera and Herbert von Karajan; *Columbia* ML 4525, $5.45.

MENDELSSOHN: CONCERTO, A-FLAT; Orazio Frugoni and Annarosa Taddei (pianos) with Vienna Symphony Orchestra under Rudolph Moralt; *Vox* PL 7400, $5.95.

MOZART: SINFONIA CONCERTANTE, K.364, E-FLAT; Walter Barylli (violin) and Paul Doktor (viola) with Vienna State Opera Orchestra under Felix Prohaska; *Westminster* WL 5107, $5.95 (reviewed in April).

VIVALDI: CONCERTO À 4 FOR STRINGS, NO. 127, E-MINOR; CONCERTO FOR VIOLIN AND STRINGS, NO. 88, C; CONCERTO À 4, NO. 279, F; CONCERTO À 5 FOR VIOLIN AND STRINGS, NO. 405, B-FLAT; Elliott Magaziner (violin) and Orchestre Symphonique de Paris under Charles Bruck; *Polymusic* PRLP 1006, $5.95 (reviewed in April).

chamber music

BEETHOVEN: QUARTET, OP. 59, NO. 1, F, Vienna Konzerthaus Quartet; *Westminster* WL 5127, $5.95 (reviewed in August).

BEETHOVEN: TRIO, OP. 97, B-FLAT (ARCHDUKE); Paul Badura-Skoda (piano), Jean Fournier (violin) and Antonio Janigro (cello); *Westminster* WL 5131, $5.95.

HAYDN: QUARTETS, OP. 77, NO. 1, G, NO. 2, F; Heifetz String Quartet; *EMS* 301, $5.95 (reviewed in August).

MOZART: DIVERTIMENTI, K.213, F; K.253, F; K.270, E-FLAT; K.252, E-FLAT; Mayerhofer and Doerreschmidt (oboes), von Freiberg and Kainz (horns), Oehlberger and Hanzl (bassoons); *Westminster* WL 5103, $5.95 (reviewed in August).

MOZART: QUINTET, K.581, A; Benny Goodman (clarinet) and American Art Quartet; *Columbia* ML 4483, $5.45 (reviewed in August).

RAVEL: QUARTET, F; SONATA FOR VIOLIN AND CELLO; Pascal String Quartet, Oscar Shumsky (violin) and Bernhard Greenhouse (cello); *Concert Hall* CHS 1223, $5.95 (reviewed in August).

SCHUBERT: QUINTET, OP. 163, C; Budapest String Quartet and Benar Heifetz (cello); *Columbia* ML 4437, $5.45 (reviewed in August).

piano

BACH: PARTITA NO. 6, E-MINOR; DAS WOHLTEMPERIRTE CLAVIER—PRELUDES AND FUGUES, BK. 2, G AND G-MINOR; Joerg Demus (piano); *Remington* R 199-92,, $2.49.

CHOPIN: ETUDES, OP. 10, OP. 25; THREE NEW ETUDES; HÉROLD VARIATIONS, OP. 12; Robert Goldsand (piano); *Concert Hall* CHS 1132, 1133, $5.95 each (reviewed in July).

CHOPIN: Waltzes; Dinu Lipatti (piano); *Columbia* ML 4522, $5.45.

NOVAES ENCORES: Short pieces by Bach, Gluck, Purcell, Brahms, Pinto, Philipp and Vuillement; Guiomar Novaes (piano); *Vox* PL 7500, $5.95.

RAVEL: Complete piano works; Robert Casadesus (piano). *Columbia* ML 4518-20, $5.45 each.

SCHUBERT: IMPROMPTUS, OP. 90, OP. 140; SONATA, OP. 120, A; Paul Badura-Skoda (piano); *Westminster* WAL 205, $11.90.

SCHUMANN: KINDERSCENEN, OP. 15; **BRAHMS:** INTERMEZZI, OP. 117; Walter Gieseking (piano); *Columbia* ML 4540, $5.45.

STRAUSS: AN DER SCHÖNEN BLAUEN DONAU (arr. Schultz-Evler); Kaiser-Walzer (arr. Pennario); Leonardo Pennario (piano); *Capitol* H 8167, $2.98.

other instruments

BACH: CHORALE PRELUDES (Schöbler collection and five others); Helmut Walcha (organ); *Decca* DL 9569, $5.85 (reviewed in July).

BACH: DAS WOHLTEMPERIRTE CLAVIER—BK.2, PRELUDES AND FUGUES 1-8; Wanda Landowska (harpsichord); *Victor* LM 1152, $5.72 (reviewed in July).

HARP MUSIC, 16TH CENTURY SPANISH MASTERS: Works by Mudarra, Narvaez, Cabezon, Milan, and Palero; **MODERN FRENCH AND SPANISH:** Works by Caplet, Pittaluga, Tournier, and Halffter; Nicanor Zabaleta (harp); *Esoteric* ES 509, $5.95.

opera

BERG: WOZZECK; Eileen Farrell, Mack Harrell, Frederick Jagel and others with Philharmonic-Symphony Orchestra of New York under Dimitri Mitropoulos; *Columbia* SL 118, $10.90.

DEBUSSY: PELLÉAS ET MÉLESANDE; Suzanne Danco, Pierre Mollet, Heinz Rehfuss and others with Suisse Romande Orchestra under Ernest Ansermet; *London* LLA 2, $11.90.

GERSHWIN: PORGY AND BESS; Camilla Williams, Lawrence Winter and others with chorus and orchestra under Lehman Engel; *Columbia* SL 162, $16.50 (reviewed in February).

OFFENBACH: ORPHÉE AUX ENFERS; Claudine Collart, Jean Mollien, André Dran and others with Paris Philharmonic Orchestra and Chorus under Rene Leibowitz; *Renaissance* SX 204, $11.90.

ROSSINI: GUGLIELMO TELL; Giuseppe Taddei, Rosanna Carteri, Mario Filippeschi and others with Radio Italiana Chorus and Orchestra under Mario Rossi; *Cetra-Soria* 1732, $23.80.

VERDI: LUISA MILLER; Lucy Kelston, Giacomo Lauri-Volpi, Scipione Colombo, Giacomo Vaghi and others with Radio Italiana Chorus and Orchestra under Mario Rossi; *Cetra-Soria* 1221, $17.85 (reviewed in February).

WAGNER: DIE MEISTERSINGER; Elisabeth Schwartzkopf, Ira Malanuik, Hans Hopf, Otto Edelmann, Friedrich Dahlberg, Gerhard Unger and others with Bayreuth Festival Chorus and Orchestra under Herbert von Karajan; *Columbia* SL 117, $27.83.

WAGNER: TRISTAN UND ISOLDE—LIEBESNACHT; ISOLDE'S NARRATIVE AND CURSE; Kirsten Flagstad, Constance Shacklock, Set Svanholm, Elisabeth Höngen and Philharmonia Orchestra under Karl Böhm and Issay Dobrowen; *Victor* LM 1151, $5.72.

choral

BACH: CANTATA NO. 140, *wachet auf*; NO. 32, *liebster jesu mein Verlangen;* Soloists with Vienna Akademiechor and State Opera Orchestra under Hermann Scherchen; *Westminster* WL 5122, $5.95 (reviewed in May).

BACH: MAGNIFICAT; Soloists and Rudolf Lamy Choral Society with Bach Festival Orchestra under Ferdinand Leitner; *Decca* DL 9557, $5.85 (reviewed in May).

DELLO JOIO: PSALM OF DAVID; Crane Chorus and Orchestra under Helen M. Hosmer; *Concert Hall* CHS 1118, $4.67 (reviewed in May).

FAURE: REQUIEM; Soloists and Paris Philharmonic Chorus and Orchestra under Rene Leibowitz; *Oceanic* OCS 26, $5.95.

HONEGGER: LE ROI DAVID; Soloists with Elisabeth Brasseur Choir and Radiodiffusion Française Orchestra under Arthur Honegger; *Westminster* WAL 204, $11.90 (reviewed in May).

MUSIC OF THE LITURGY IN ENGLISH: Plainsong, Anglican chant, etc. Choir under Ray F. Brown and Harold W. Gilbert. *Columbia* ML 4528, $5.45.

VIVALDI: JUDITHA TRIUMPHANS; Soloists and La Fenice Theatre Chorus with Scuola Veneziana Symphony Orchestra under Angelo Ephrikian; *Period* SPLP 533, $17.85 (reviewed in May).

solo cantatas

BACH: CANTATA 56, *ich will den kreuzstab gerne tragen;* CANTATA 82, *ich habe genug;* Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau (baritone) with Berlin Motet Singers and Ristenpart Chamber Orchestra under Karl Ristenpart; *Decca* DL 9595, $5.85.

Continued on next page

RECORDS continued

BUXTEHUDE: FIVE CANTATAS; Margot Guilleaume (soprano) with ensemble under Marie-Luise Bechert; *Vox* PL 7330, $5.95.

folk and exotic music

AMERICAN FOLK MUSIC: Ballads, Social music, Songs (a comprehensive anthology, fully documented, mostly dubbed from recordings made in the late Twenties); edited by Harry Smith; *Folkways* FP 251-53, 3 vol., $11.90 each.

MUSIC OF INDIA: Background music from Jean Renoir's "The River"; *Polymusic* PRLP 5003, $5.95.

THE UNQUIET GRAVE: Eight folk ballads; Andrew Rowan Summers (tenor) with dulcimer; *Folkways* FP 64, $5.95.

songs

GRIEG: SIX SONGS; Kirsten Flagstad (soprano) with Philharmonia Orchestra under Warwick Braithwaite and Walter Süsskind; *Victor* LM 99, $4.67.

RAVEL: *Cinq mélodies populaires grecques;* **ANON:** *Two Greek folksongs;* **FAURE:** *Automne, Mandoline, Soir;* **AUBERT:** *Le vaincu; Le visage penché;* Irma Kolassi (mezzo-soprano) and Jacqueline Bonneau (piano); *London* LS 568, $4.95.

SCHUBERT: DIE WINTERREISE, OP. 89; Victor Carne (tenor) and Gerald Moore (piano); *Westminster* WL 5087-88, $11.90 (reviewed in September).

SONG RECITAL: Fourteen songs by Cornelius, Greig, Jensen, Strauss, and Pfitzner; Margarete Klose (contralto) and Michael Raucheisen (piano); *Urania* URLP 7053, $5.95 (reviewed in September).

WOLF: ITALIENISCHES LIEDERBUCH—16 SONGS; Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau (baritone) and Hertha Klust (piano); *Decca* DL 9632, $5.85.

mixed programs

MOZART: CONCERTO NO. 3, E-FLAT, K.447; Mason Jones (horn) with National Gallery Orchestra under Richard Bales; ZAIDE—*Ruhe sanft,* K.344; *Exsultate, jubilate,* K.165; Barbara Troxell (soprano) with National Gallery Orchestra under Richard Bales; *WCFM* LP 8, $5.95 (reviewed in April).

MUSIC OF THE 12TH AND 13TH CENTURIES: Vocal and instrumental pieces by Leoninus, Alfonso the Wise, Perotin, Adam de la Halle, etc.; Pro Musica Antiqua under Safford Cape. *EMS* 201, $5.95.

RIMSKI-KORSAKOV: CONCERTO FOR TROMBONE AND MILITARY BAND; Davis Shuman (trombone) with Symphony Artists' Band under Tibor Serly; **GLAZUNOV:** CAROLERS; **LYADOV:** GLORIFICATION; **RIMSKI-KORSAKOV:** RUSSIAN DANCERS. Radio Artists' String Quartet. *Circle* L-51-103,

SCHONBERG: ERWARTUNG, OP. 17; Dorothy Dow (soprano) with Philharmonic-Symphony Orchestra of New York under Dimitri Mitropoulos; **KRENEK:** SYMPHONIC ELEGY IN MEMORY OF VON WEBERN; Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra of New York under Dimitri Mitropoulos. *Columbia* ML 4524, $5.45.

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children's records

BY BEATRICE LANDECK, *author of* Children and Music, *Director of the Music Workshop, Mills College of Education, New York City.*

Although fewer companies specialize in the field of children's records now than formerly, the quantity of records released this year is greater than ever. The usual nursery and fairy stories and the popular legends still rank high on the best-selling lists but the greater bulk of the output draws upon radio and television programs and movie cartoons.

Almost every popular children's show is represented on records: the Lone Ranger (*Decca*), Hopalong Cassidy (*Capitol*), Howdy Doody (*RCA Victor*), as well as Roy Rogers, Captain Video, Tom Corbett's Space Cadets, and others. In most cases the records are so similar to the original dramatic program that it seems unnecessary to describe or evaluate them except to mention that the recordings made by the casts of marionette shows indicate that appearance rather than voice is probably responsible for the appeal of animated dolls.

Movie cartoons have long been a source of record material. RCA Victor has released two hard-back storybook albums with stories and records adapted from the forthcoming Disney films, *Peter Pan* and *Adventures in Music.* Both are "completely dramatized with the original cast of the motion picture" but, here again, without the amusing visual representation, the characters lose their unique charm; their voices are irritating and offensive. *Golden Records* (Simon & Schuster) handles the Disney films more tastefully by presenting only the songs (without the original cast). Songs from Walt Disney's *Peter Pan,* without narration, appear in pairs on four 7-inch *Little Golden Records, RD35, RD36, RD37,* and *RD38,* at 25¢ each. Most of these songs are appropriate for older children. Songs with a wider appeal, appropriate for all ages, are presented on two 10-inch *Big Golden Records*: songs from Walt Disney's *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* (*DBR4*) and songs from Walt Disney's *Robin Hood* (*DBR5*), at $1.05 each.

It is true that these familiar subjects and characters dominate the children's record market but there are other records among this year's releases that offer fresh material, imaginatively presented. Some such single titles may have escaped the notice of record dealers, but all of the titles

Prices include Federal tax.

listed here are nevertheless available and in many cases are worthy of ordering specially, if necessary.

for children 2 to 5

THE CHOO CHOO TRAIN and **KALAMAZOO TO TIMBUCTOO,** sung by soloists and The Sandpipers, with Mitchell Miller and Orchestra. *Big Golden Record* BR 5, $1.05. In the first of these songs, the "Choo Choo" of the train takes on the meaning of "chew, chew" in the lyric. Both songs have train sound effects; both are clever and well produced. Highly recommended.

NOAH'S ARK, told and sung by Oscar Brand, David Pfeffer and the Eugene Lowell Singers. *Children's Record Guild* CRG 1035, $1.10. The story of Noah is used as a background for presenting some of the most delightful animal folksongs. An outstanding record.

MY PLAYFUL SCARF, told by Norman Rose with music by Richard Mohaupt. *Children's Record Guild* CRG 1019, $1.10. The fine orchestral score on this record gives a child opportunity for creative movement. This is a more interesting disc than NOTHING TO DO (*Children's Record Guild* CRG 1012) which is of the more conventional type.

CARBON THE COPY CAT and **MR. BUZZARD,** sung by Tex Ritter. *Capitol* CAS 3103, $1.10. This record is recommended for "Carbon, the Copy Cat," which is delightfully funny with entertaining animal sounds.

LITTLE NIPPER 6-in-1 Record Albums, with Frank Milano as Nipper. *RCA Victor*, one 45-rpm record or two seven-inch 78-rpm records, $1. The 6-in-1 albums offer six activities for children including punching out paper "puppets" from the back cover of the albums. This is not a record reader, although a condensed version of the story is told in captions under illustrations. The only two of twelve titles recommended are LITTLE NIPPER and THE RAILROAD MAN (VY2010 on 78-rpm; WY2010 on 45-rpm), AND LITTLE NIPPER FIRE CHIEF (VY2011 on 78-rpm; WY2011 on 45-rpm).

PETER AND THE WOLF, narrated by Boris Karloff. *Mercury-Childcraft* CMG, 14, 98¢. A condensed version of this favorite, more suitable for young children than the longer original.

for children of all ages

BOOBOO THE BABY BABOON, ONIONS AND POTATOES, and **KEEP A ROVIN',** told and sung by Josef Marais and Miranda. *Columbia* MJV-130, $1.10. One side is a story with music, the other, two songs from the South African veld. The distinctive style and good taste of these performers ensures first-rate entertainment in whatever they do.

Continued on next page

the December
Reports
will be the annual
Buying Guide Issue

• • • published in December for use through 1953. No regular issue of CONSUMER REPORTS appears next month. For details of the Buying Guide see the back cover. All regular subscriptions include the Buying Guide issue. All Christmas gift subscriptions start with it.

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CHILDREN'S RECORDS continued

BULU THE ZULU and **FIDEREE FIDERA,** told and sung by Josef Marais and Miranda. *Columbia* MJV-126, $1.10. The story on one side is full of fascinating drum rhythms; the song on the other side thoroughly captivating. Highly recommended.

THE BANGALOREY MAN, told and sung by Josef Marais and Miranda. *Decca* CUS-21, $2.36. Fanciful songs that will win the heart of grown-ups as well as children.

COWBOYS (*Old Chisholm Trail,* and *The Big Corral*), sung by Gene Autry. Playtime records, *Columbia* 384-PVD, 34¢. **CLEMENTINE** and **ON TOP OF OLD SMOKY,** sung by Gene Autry. Playtime, *Columbia* 386-PVD, 34¢. Pleasant, enjoyable singing of favorite American folksongs.

GOLDEN CHRISTMAS CAROLS, sung by The Sandpiper Chorus, Boys' Choir and Orchestra directed by Mitchell Miller. A *Big Golden Record* (Simon & Schuster) BR11, $1.05. Eleven favorite Christmas Carols, well arranged and well performed.

I KNOW AN OLD LADY and **THE HEN IS IN THE HAY MOW,** sung by Burl Ives. *Decca* K85, $1. Both songs are in humorous American folksong style; the first is a cumulative song about animals, expertly performed and highly recommended.

THE BARNYARD SONG, THREE LITTLE PIGLETS, and **THE CRAWDAD,** sung by Sam Hinton. *Decca* K69, $1. Sam Hinton brings something fresh and new to the singing of folksongs. In the first of the above songs he entertainingly fits animal sounds into the lyrics.

LITTLE ORLIE AND HIS COONSKIN CAP and **LITTLE ORLIE'S FLY-FROG-FISH ORCHESTRA,** told by Uncle Lumpy. *Decca* K83, $1. The further adventures of Little Orlie, imaginatively conceived and well told.

for children 5 to 9

BENNIE THE BEAVER, told by William Keene with music composed and conducted by Gail Kubik, percussion solos by Saul Goodman. *Columbia* MJV-139, $1.10. A clever and imaginative story in verse of an unusual beaver who preferred beating drums to building dams. This is an excellent introduction to the percussion instruments, which Bennie plays with his tail. Highly recommended.

TUGBOAT PETER MORAN, the story of a real tugboat. *Columbia* MJV-142, $1.10.

HOOK AND LADDER NO. 99, authentic fire engine sounds. *Columbia* MJV-143, $1.10.

SKYLINER FLIGHT 35, authentic plane sounds. *Columbia* MJV-144, $1.10.

These three records are documentary. No attempt is made to fictionalize the ride with the firemen to put out a three-alarm fire, the ride with the pilot as he flies a four-engine Constellation from New York to California, or even the ride aboard the Tugboat Moran as it helps dock the Queen Mary. In this last record, however, two children do ask questions of the Captain. These discs were recorded "on-the-spot" and any one of them will appeal to the child who is seriously interested in its subject. The technical details require thoughtful listening.

BUILD ME A HOUSE, sung by the Eugene Lowell Singers. *Children's Record Guild* CRG-5018, $1.10. Imaginative nonsense spun around the story of building a house. Highly recommended.

COME TO THE PARTY, told and sung by Oscar Brand, David Anderson and the Gene Lowell Singers. *Children's Record Guild* CRG 5032, $1.10. Twelve songs for special days of each month of the year become a basis for a new kind of guessing game. A fresh selection of holiday songs beautifully presented.

NOTE: *All records are single 10-inch, 78-rpm, in attractive jackets unless otherwise noted.*

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